

**Shining in the
rubble, golden
symbol of the
miracle of
Notre Dame**

DRAMATIC REPORTS AND PICTURES PAGES 4-11

By **James Burton**
Chief City Correspondent

A RECORD number of women over 50 are in work, figures revealed yesterday.

There are 4.9million 50-plus women holding down a job, a rise of 38 per cent since 2009 – and double the figure in 1994. Experts said a rise in the state pension age, growing financial pressures and changing lifestyles were all factors.

Meanwhile, the number of women staying at home has fallen to a record low. Fewer than 1.8million look after a family or household full-time, compared to 2.1million a decade ago – and almost 3million when records began in 1993.

Overall, the Office for National Statistics figures showed the number of women in work has risen to a record 15.4million. A key factor behind the surge in the number of older working women has been the rise in the state pension age, which has been increasing from 60 to 65 – making it harder for many to give up employment.

Just 620,000 women aged under 64 have retired, down 44 per cent since 2009. Lucrative final-salary pensions are less common, meaning many older people have to hold down at least a part-time role to supplement their income in retirement.

The aging population also makes it harder to retire early because rising life expectancy forces early retirees to make their nest eggs stretch for more years than in the past. Many women are also thought to be choosing to

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Amid Britain's jobs boom, number of over-50s women in employment doubles to 5 million

**WOMEN WHO
CAN'T GIVE
UP WORKING**

Picture: BACKGRID

Hey blondie, make us some sarnies! Medical student's sexism ordeal...at hands of doctors

By **Ben Spencer**
Medical Correspondent

SHE was hoping for the encouragement she needed in her quest to be a surgeon. Instead, medical student Hannah Yard says she met a barrage of sexism.

She claims she was advised to dye her blonde hair brown if she wanted to be taken seriously in the profession.

And a group of male doctors laughed as one said she 'must be here to make the sandwiches' during a placement at one hospital.

Others referred to her as 'nurse' even after she had introduced herself as a student doctor. She gave up on her dream of being a surgeon after she was told by a registrar it was 'nice to finally have something to look at across the operating table'.

Miss Yard, 24, from Southampton, completed a degree in pharmacology and then chose to continue her studies at Cardiff University. She is now in the fourth year of a postgraduate medicine course there and has been on placement in hospitals across South Wales.

She has compiled a list on social media of the 'everyday' sexism she has encountered in her training. She says she has been mistaken for a nurse, nicknamed 'Blondie' and repeatedly called 'good girl' when she answered questions correctly. Miss Yard said: 'Surprisingly never heard "good boy" being used for any of my male colleagues.'

Of the sandwich jibe, she said: 'That made me want to cry. I was only 21 and being laughed at by a big group of men.' A female colleague seeking a

'I was shocked and couldn't believe it'

career in anaesthetics was told she could not juggle that with having children, she added. It is the latest sexism row to hit the medical profession.

This month the British Medical Association began an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment in its GP committee. Female doctors accused senior members of the BMA of sending unsolicited naked pictures and publicly joking about colleagues' bra sizes.

Miss Yard says she was told to 'go brunette' at an open day for a postgraduate medicine course at the University of Bristol, when she was choosing where to study. She says she was told by a member of the admissions team that she needed to make sure she 'came across the right way'.

'When I asked what he meant, he said that to be taken seriously in medicine I probably needed to dye my hair brunette,' Miss Yard said. 'I was shocked, I couldn't believe someone would say that to me. Sexism in medicine is still very much an issue, and something that shouldn't just be accepted as a joke.'

'I don't know a single one of my male colleagues who has been mistaken for a nurse, called a

derogatory nickname, been called "something nice to look at".' She felt she could not answer back in case it affected her career.

Adanna Anomneze-Collins, who chairs the BMA's UK medical students conference, said: 'For medi-

cal students, being exposed to such outdated and disrespectful attitudes can have a profoundly negative effect, not just on their wellbeing and mental health, but on the way they view the profession. We cannot allow such behav-

iour to deter talented female medics from pursuing careers as doctors.' The University of Bristol said it is 'fully committed to being a place where everyone feels safe, welcomed and respected'.

Cardiff University said: 'We are

extremely concerned by the allegations and would encourage anyone who has experienced any of these issues to raise them through our formal complaints procedure. Our students should be treated with dignity, courtesy and respect.'



Target: Miss Yard says she felt like crying

The jibes that Hannah's faced

■ She was told to 'go brunette' if she hoped to be taken seriously as a doctor

■ Surgeons told Miss Yard she 'must be here to make the sandwiches'

■ A surgical registrar said it was 'nice to finally have something to look at across the operating table'

■ Fellow doctors routinely referred to her as a nurse even after she introduced herself as a student doctor

■ She was praised as a 'good girl' for answering questions correctly

■ A friend hoping to be an anaesthetist was told: 'How do you expect to have children? You won't be able to go part-time and stay home with the kids.'



Hannah Yard: The student in a picture she posted on social media

I'm sorry, but I can't be both judge and jury...

A SENIOR judge has revealed how he was called for jury service – and had to convince officials that he couldn't serve because he was due to preside over the trial in question.

Keith Cutler, the resident judge of Winchester and Salisbury since 2009, was naturally surprised at receiving his own summons. He said that even though he replied

Daily Mail Reporter

and explained why he couldn't serve on the jury, his reason was initially rejected.

He said: 'I was selected for jury service for a trial starting April 23. I told the Jury Central Summoning Bureau that I thought I would be inappropriate. They wrote back, they picked up on the fact I was the judge

but said, "Your appeal for refusal has been rejected but you could apply to the resident judge" but I told them "I am the resident judge".'

Although common sense finally prevailed, the judge said he would have been happy to have served as a juror had it been appropriate 'to see what it was like and whether I would have liked the judge'. Judge Cutler

related the story of his encounter with officialdom while addressing a jury at his latest trial at Salisbury Crown Court.

A guide to jury summons issued by the Department of Justice states: 'The normal expectation is that everyone summoned will serve at the time for which they are summoned. However, there will be occasions when it is not reasonable.'



How did it escape the flames? The golden crucifix standing above a pile of charred debris

HOW I SEE IT



from Robert
Hardman

IN PARIS

BENEATH the light rain that greeted a sleepless Parisian dawn yesterday, there was one over-riding emotion: That some sort of miracle had occurred in the early hours as it transpired one of the world's greatest medieval buildings had survived wholesale destruction.

The near-cataclysmic fire which had raged through the Cathedral of Notre Dame for eight hours during the night had finally been brought under control and smothered by first light.

Notre Dame has, without doubt, been horribly damaged. France, along with much of the world, has been deeply shocked at the near-demise of 'Our Lady of Paris'. Yesterday evening, fresh images of the wreckage were released showing the nave piled high with charred and twisted timbers.

Yet it could have been so very much worse. The 850-year-old towers which stand guard over the entrance and the immortal bells hanging within are in one piece. So, too, is some of the stained glass. 'Our Lady' lives on, bloodied but unbowed.

At the same time, the fire had produced another miracle of sorts. This avowedly secular country suddenly seemed to have rediscovered its sense of the spiritual yesterday, if only for a few hours. 'I have never known so many people talking openly about God, about religion and saying prayers in public,' said caterer Marie-Astrid d'Arras. 'So many people have become Catholic once again.'

Underpinning all this talk of divine intervention was a single image which first appeared in the Daily Mail yesterday.

I was one of the first people inside the smouldering cathedral as the worst of the fire subsided. I accompanied the French prime minister, Edouard Philippe, and a handful of aides on a preliminary inspection of the charred shell.

We found flames still flickering in some of the upper reaches and a lake at our feet. Then, through the foul-smelling miasma of smoke and hose water which filled this roofless void, we suddenly spotted an image that has come to define this near-disaster: The golden cross above the altar. How on earth had it managed to avoid the fate of everything else in the seat of the blaze, let alone remain upright?

Even avowed atheists took to social media yesterday to profess how moved they had been by this poignant symbol of defiance. Several Anglophile Parisians told me

it reminded them of that famous wartime image of St Paul's Cathedral standing tall during the Blitz.

For the authorities, there were more earthly considerations, notably finding out how the hell this had all happened in the first place. France might be praying a little louder than usual. But it is also pretty angry, too.

President Emmanuel Macron knows he needs to show a firm grip on every aspect of this episode and his interior minister Christophe Castaner vowed to identify the culprits yesterday. Attention was firmly focused on the contractors responsible for repair work on the roof in the area where the fire broke out. The fact that it started just moments after the end of the working day could provide a link.

Mr Macron cleared yesterday's Cabinet meetings of all other busi-

ness to focus exclusively on Notre Dame. Such is the mystical hold this 12th Century Gothic masterpiece has on the national psyche.

A key issue will be the cost. Under French law, the ownership of the cathedral rests with the State but the French taxpayer received a handsome head start yesterday when two of the country's richest families pledged 300million euros before breakfast. By last night, the fighting fund had hit an astonishing 600million euros.

As stories began to emerge of the gallantry of the firefighters – and of a particularly heroic priest seen running into the inferno to retrieve some of Notre Dame's treasures – messages arrived from world leaders, including one from the Queen. 'Prince Philip and I have been deeply saddened to see the images of the fire which has engulfed

Notre Dame Cathedral,' she told President Macron. 'My thoughts and prayers are with those who worship at the cathedral and all of France at this difficult time.'

Tomorrow, she will attend her beloved Royal Maundy service at St George's Windsor, the traditional prelude to Easter Sunday.

There will be no Easter at Notre Dame, for the first time in nearly nine centuries. There was also a message yesterday from the Prince of Wales. 'I realise only too well what a truly special significance the cathedral holds at the heart of your nation,' he told Mr Macron. 'But also for us outside France it represents one of the greatest architectural achievements of Western civilisation. It is a treasure for all mankind.'

By way of consolation, he alluded to the Royal Family's own experi-

ence of the 1992 fire which ravaged much of Windsor Castle. 'Our hearts go out to you and the people of France more than you can ever know, especially in view of our experience with the devastating fire at Windsor Castle 27 years ago,' the Prince went on.

It was the Prince, together with the Duke of Edinburgh, who led the five-year, £40million rebuilding programme. It more than restored Windsor to its former glory.

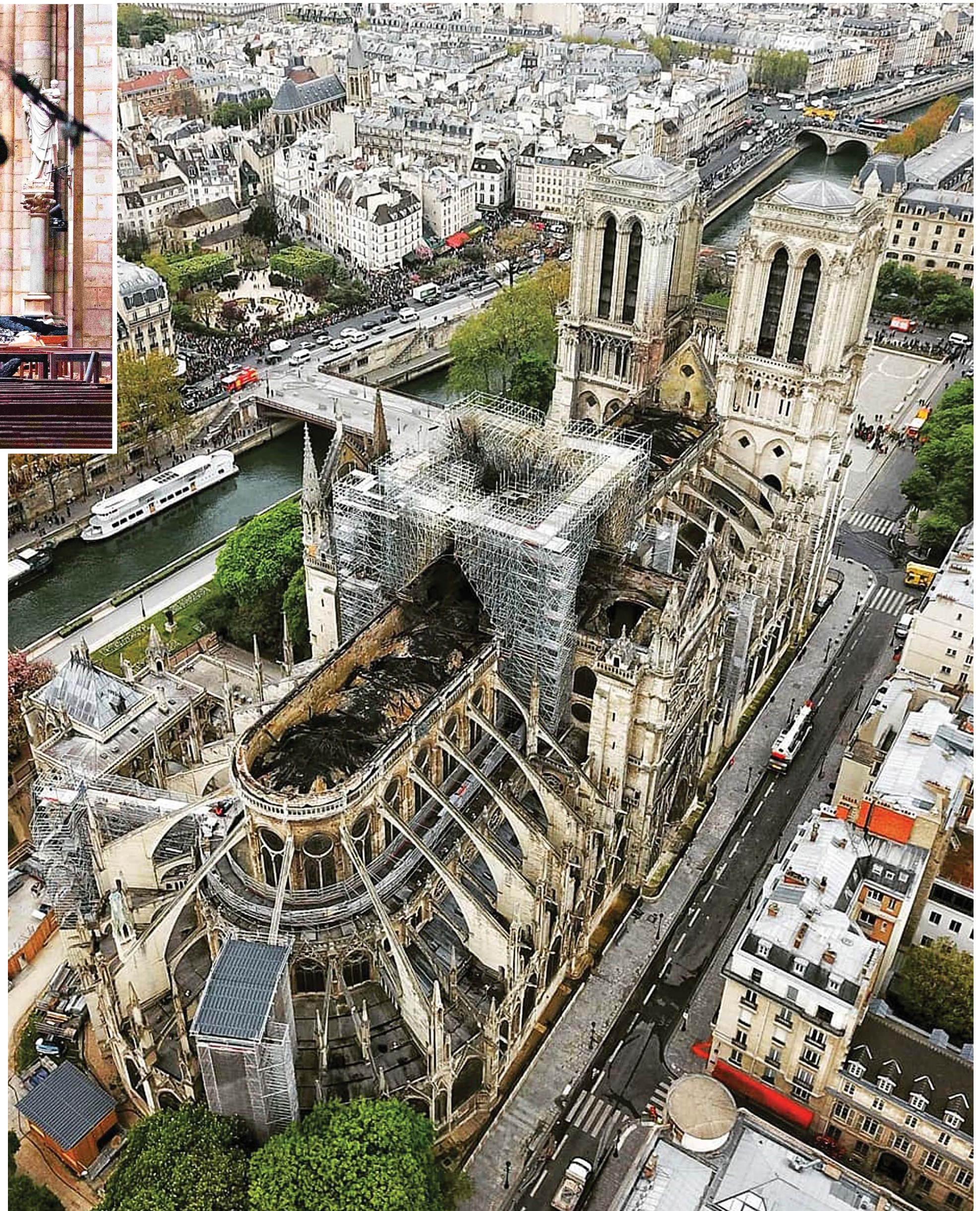
Mr Macron would be well advised to pick up the phone to the Queen or her eldest son for a few useful tips on how best to resurrect a medieval treasure.

Other world leaders expressing their solidarity yesterday included Pope Francis, who announced he was placing the Vatican's heritage

From Mailman who was first into wreckage...

Bloodied but unbowed, the Lady of Paris saved by divine intervention

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Near disaster: An aerial view shows the vast extent of the damage to the Gothic cathedral's roof, where the fire took hold and raged throughout Monday night

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The image showcases the Daily Mail's digital presence across multiple platforms:

- Desktop Monitor:** Displays the main 'Tower Tribute' article, 'Why the new TOWER TRIBUTE will set your heart ablaze', featuring a large image of the Tower of London and a video of the 'Night in the shadow' ceremony.
- Laptop:** Shows a 'Daily Mail COMMENT' article titled 'Unilever and a great victory for UK plc' by Robert Hardman.
- Tablet:** Displays a 'Daily Mail' article about 'Little Louis, Kate's adorable sleeping cutie' with a photo of the royal baby.
- Smartphone:** Shows a 'Daily Mail' article titled 'S GOES IN THE KILL' with sub-headlines 'He blasts: We went into battle waving white flag' and 'Day of chaos leaves PM facing fight for survival'.
- Amazon Echo:** A smart speaker device shown in the foreground.
- Smartphone App:** Displays the 'Welcome to coffee break plus' app interface, featuring 'PRIZE PUZZLE WIN EEEs playing our daily prize puzzles' and 'Brain training' games like 'Kurosui 6' and 'Kurosui 10'.
- Tablet App:** Shows a video of a woman in a kitchen, likely part of a lifestyle or cooking segment.

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NOTRE DAME CATASTROPHE

As building chief who said he was proud of his work is investigated...

WERE HERO FIREMEN ONLY CALLED TO FIGHT BLAZE 23 MINS AFTER FIRST ALARM?

From **Arthur Martin** in Paris and **David Churchill** in Metz

THE devastating blaze at Notre Dame was missed by officials for 23 minutes after a fire alarm, it emerged last night.

Although the alarm was triggered at 6.20pm on Monday, cathedral attendants failed to spot the fire in the roof until another alarm went off at 6.43pm.

It is possible they missed the outbreak because the attic area was hemmed in by layers of scaffolding.

But the critical delay will raise questions over whether more of the historic structure could have been saved.

Paris public prosecutor Rémy Heitz said: 'There was an initial alarm at 6.20pm, followed by a procedure to verify this but no fire was found. Then, there was a second alarm at 6.43pm and at that point a fire was detected in the structure.'

He added: 'The investigation is going to be long and complex.'

France's deputy interior minister Laurent Nuñez said the Gothic marvel came within '15 to 30 minutes' of total destruction. Last night dozens of workers were being questioned by police over what they were doing before the fire broke out.

Some were employees of Le Bras Freres – a company known as the 'Cathedral Restorers' – which had won a £5million contract to renovate the spire at the Paris heritage site. Prosecutors will investigate to find out if any of the workmen should be brought to court for cutting corners.

Julien Le Bras, the 32-year-old boss of the specialist construction company, said 12 employees were working on the roof of the cathedral that day. But he insisted all of his staff had left Notre Dame by the time the blaze broke out.

Mr Le Bras, who boasted about his firm's ability to protect historic sites when his company won the contract to repair the 300ft spire in 2017, expressed his 'extreme sadness' over the fire.

During a visit to the cathedral, he

said: 'All of our colleagues, workmen and others will assist the enquiry without reserve. Everybody will try and shine a light on the origin of this drama. Not a single of my employees was on site at the time of the fire. The methods of the enquiry must be respected.'

'Ability and competence'

It's the job of the investigators to work out what happened.

'At the moment we're working with architects and civil servants to make sure the building is secure. We'll use our expertise to see if risks exist, and to plan future work.' Le Bras Freres, which is based near

the city of Metz in north-east France, employs 180 staff and has carried out restoration work on at least 12 other sites, including the Parthenon in Athens.

The firm also owns Europe Echaufaudage, the company responsible for the scaffolding at Notre Dame. In 2017, the two companies made almost £22million.

Le Bras Freres, which specialises in carpentry and roofing, beat off bids from a number of far bigger companies to secure contracts for work at the cathedral.

Mr Le Bras suggested there were other companies involved in the restoration work, but would not divulge who they were.

The relatively young construction boss had previously heralded his firm's 'technical ability

and competence' in restoring historic buildings.

In a film posted online, Mr Le Bras said: 'We are proud of our work on historic buildings. We have the technical ability and the competence for this work. Our first thought is to protect the values of historical buildings – it's in our DNA.'

Implying that his company's restoration work lasts for generations, he added: 'We won't work with a ten-year guarantee – we aim for 150 years.' Commenting on Notre Dame's famous spire, which collapsed in the blaze, he said: 'The spire is 105m tall and there is no question that we will put any pressure on it with the scaffolding.'

When the Mail visited the company's headquarters in Jarny, staff refused to comment.

FROM PAGE 4

experts at France's disposal. After all, one of his predecessors, Pope Alexander III, was here to see the foundation stone laid in 1163.

The outpouring of international goodwill only added to the emotions I encountered in Paris yesterday. I found young men playing mournful recitals on the cello. Here and there, nuns broke into song or prayer. Gawping crowds encircling the cathedral's island site on either side of the Seine filled miles of pavement and brought traffic to an escargot-style crawl.

In front of Notre Dame itself, a succession of sombre politicians talked of a need for national unity. After months of civil disobedience by the anti-Macron 'gilets jaunes' movement, there is a sense that the appetite for organised dissent has waned in the last 24 hours.

'There is a spirit which lives inside and above this building, one you don't find in, say, the Eiffel Tower,' said Ambrose Laurent, secretary of France's Conference of Bishops. Then the bishops issued a joint statement saying every cathedral in France would ring its bells today at the precise time when Monday's fire broke out.

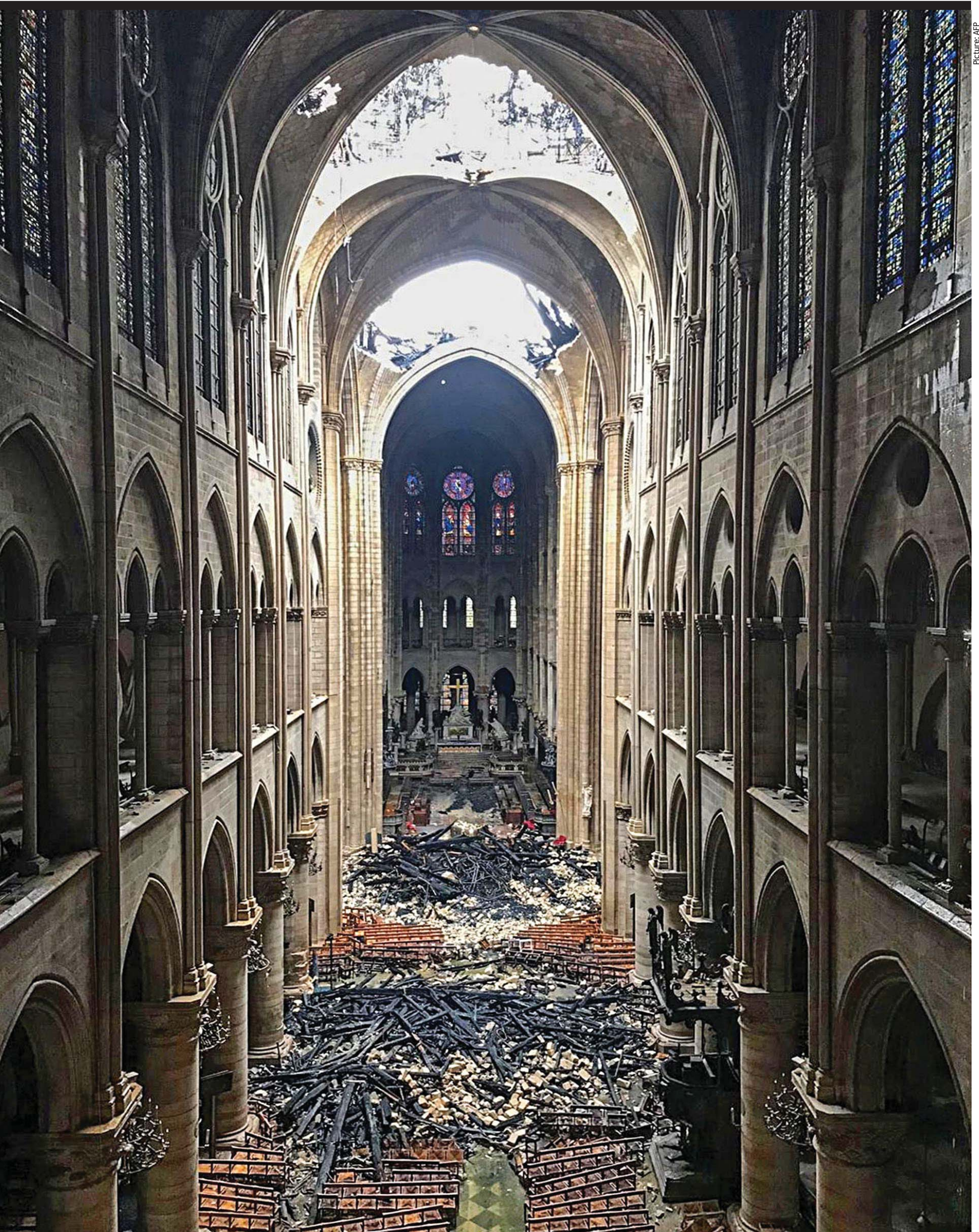
Sitting with his drawing pad next to the Seine, I found retired steel executive Robert Gest, 72, sketching the cathedral. He said he wants to leave it to his grandchildren as a reminder of what happened. 'There has been so much bashing of the church and religion in this country that perhaps this experience will make people think about it a little more,' he said. 'After all, the great cross is still there.'

Comment – Page 18



Defensive: Building contractor Julien Le Bras. Right and top: Firemen battle the blaze





Picture: AFP

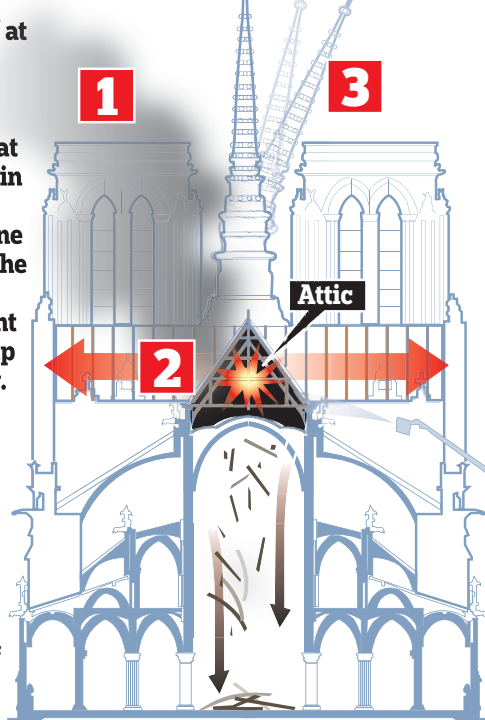
Ashes: The interior of the cathedral after Monday's inferno. Firemen managed to save the building's two towers, but its famous 300ft spire was destroyed

THE TREASURES THAT SURVIVED

HOW THE SAVAGE INFERNO SPREAD

1 Fire alarm goes off at 5.20pm (GMT) but smoke is first seen billowing out of the roof below the spire at 5.30pm. Fire started in the cathedral's attic which lies above stone arches visible from the floor. The attic is criss-crossed by giant timber trusses to help support the building.

2 With accumulated dust and debris making the attic even more flammable, the blaze quickly spreads across the 1,300 beams. By 11pm two-thirds of the roof has been destroyed.



3 As the fire rages, onlookers watch aghast as the 300ft wooden spire covered in lead is engulfed in flames. By 6.30pm it collapses – first toppling to the side and then breaking off.

4 500 firefighters tackle the blaze late into the night. They save the two historic towers and the bulk of the structure. They form a human chain to save works of art and holy relics. Blaze put out by 11pm.



SAVED: ROSE WINDOWS

The three stained glass rose windows that adorn the north, south, and west facades are among the most famous features of the 850-year-old gothic masterpiece. All three 13th century windows have survived.

Illustration by
JOHN LAWSON



SAVED: TUNIC OF ST LOUIS

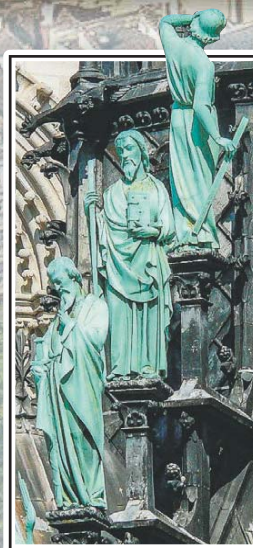
The 13th century linen tunic that King Louis IX is believed to have worn as he brought the Crown of Thorns to Paris was also saved, according to Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo. In 1297, Louis became the only French monarch to be canonised.

DAMAGED: THE HIGH ALTAR

Miraculously, the only piece of architecture damaged inside the sacred building was the high altar. It was hit as the spire crashed down in the flames, according to the cathedral's heritage director Laurent Prades.

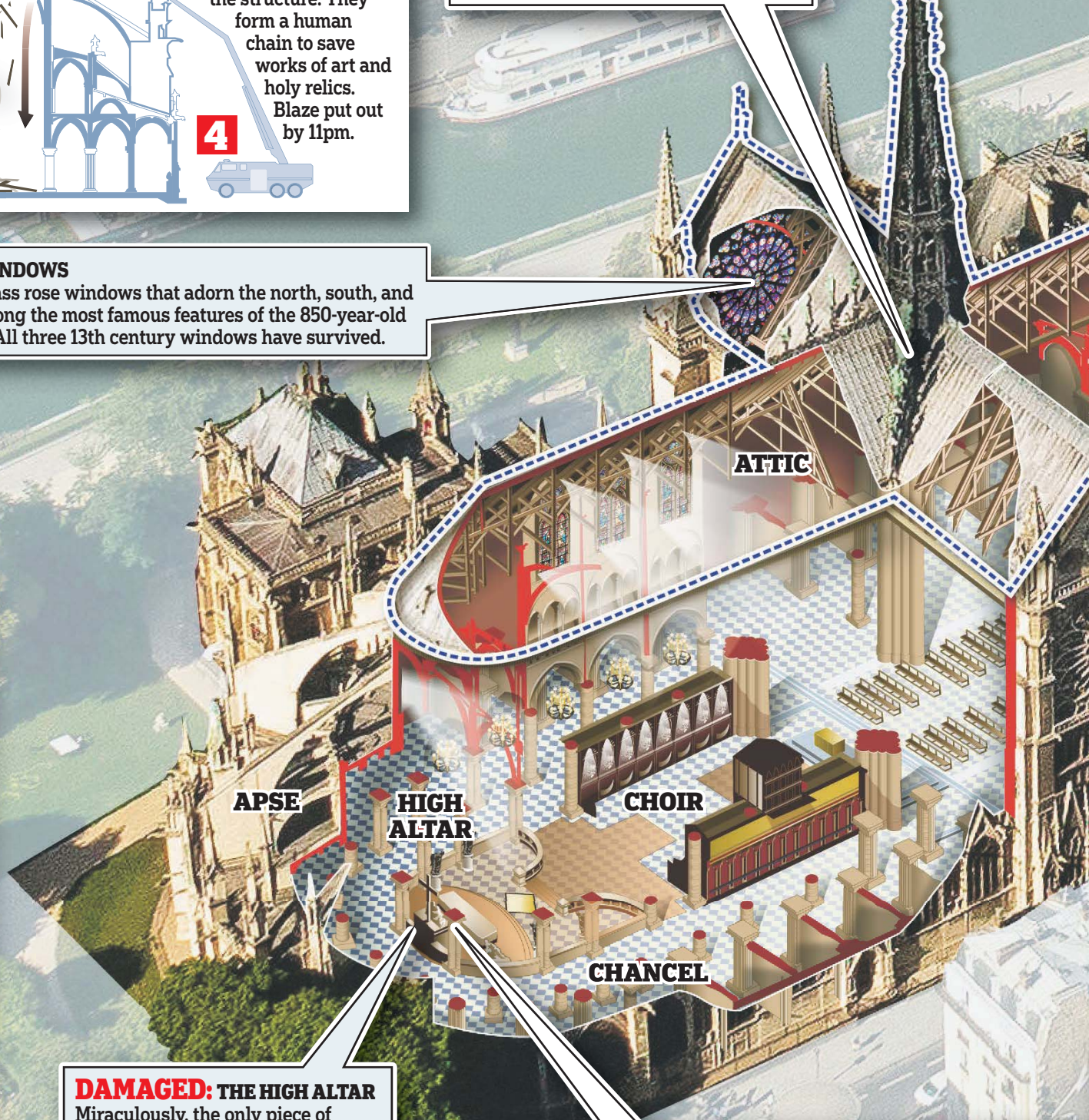
SAVED: 16 COPPER STATUES

As part of the renovation, 16 ten foot copper statues – representing the 12 apostles and four evangelists – had fortunately been removed by crane from the now-destroyed spire just days before the blaze.



AREA OF ROOF
AND SPIRE
DESTROYED
BY THE FIRE

Spire
300ft
high



APPARENTLY SAVED:

DESCENT FROM THE CROSS, right, Initial photos suggest the 1723 statue by Nicolas Coustou – showing Jesus being taken down from his Crucifixion – is still standing but surrounded by smoke and debris.

NOTRE DAME'S DEVASTATION

SAVED:

THE BELLS

Immortalised in Victor Hugo's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, the cathedral's bells have chimed out at key moments in France's history.

WESTERN BELL TOWERS

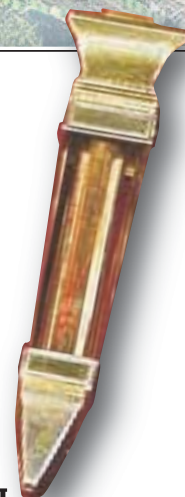
KNAVE

BAPTISTRY



FATE UNKNOWN: TRUE CROSS AND HOLY NAIL

Notre Dame was also home to a fragment of wood, above left, said to come from the wood of the cross Jesus was crucified on, along with one of the nails, above right. Saved during the French Revolution and later given to the cathedral, it was unclear yesterday whether they had been rescued.



SAVED:

CROWN OF THORNS

Firefighters rescued the irreplaceable relic, said to have been worn by Christ at the Crucifixion, which was stored in the treasury. Contained in an elaborate gold case, the wreath – eight inches in diameter – was brought to Paris by King Louis IX in 1238. The Crown of Thorns is now safe at Paris town hall.



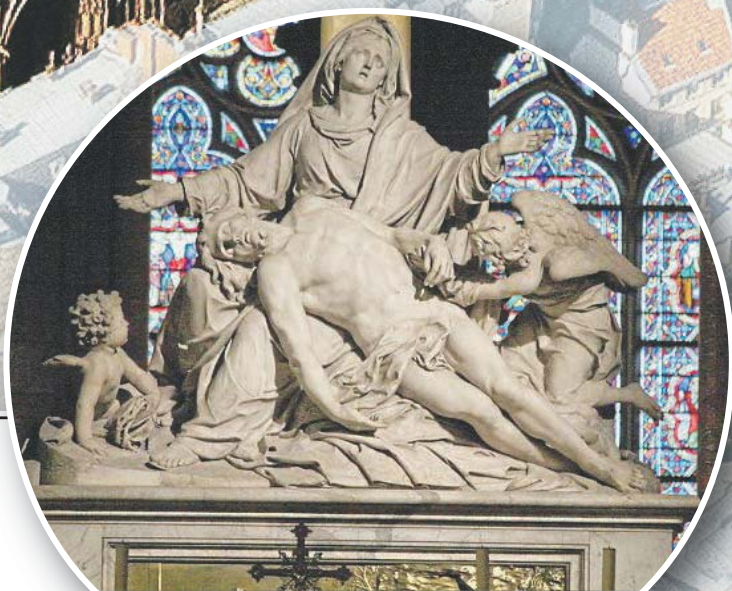
DAMAGED: GREAT ORGAN

With five keyboards and nearly 8,000 pipes, the cathedral's 15th century master organ is one of the largest in the world. French culture minister Franck Riester

said the organ – which was fully restored in 2013 – seemed 'to be quite badly damaged'. It was 'not burned' but was partly covered in rubble, dust, and water, which will cause further damage as it dries out.

DAMAGED: PAINTINGS

If they have survived, the cathedral's greatest paintings are likely to have suffered smoke damage, according to Mr Riester. This includes *The Mays*, a series of 76 religious works, and *Visitation*, right, the 1716 piece by Jean-Baptiste Jouvenet's hung in the Chapel of Saint-Guillaume. The fire did not reach the paintings but they were damaged by both smoke and water. On Friday, they are to be transported to the nearby Louvre museum for restoration.



NOTRE DAME CATASTROPHE

He showed no fear ... hero priest of the Bataclan saved Crown of Thorns

From **Emine Sinmaz** in Paris

A PRIEST who comforted the injured victims of the Bataclan terror attack has emerged as the hero of the Notre Dame inferno.

Jean-Marc Fournier, chaplain of the Paris Fire Brigade, risked his life to save the Crown of Thorns and the Blessed Sacrament from the cathedral on Monday night.

It was feared that the religious relics would be destroyed as flames engulfed the medieval building. But Father Fournier insisted on entering the cathedral with firefighters and 'showed no fear at all'.

The 53-year-old is believed to have been part of a 'human chain' who retrieved the centuries-old priceless artworks and artefacts. An emergency services source, who did not want to be named, said: 'Father Fournier is an absolute hero.'

'He showed no fear at all as he made straight for the relics inside the cathedral, and made sure they were saved. He deals with life and death every day, and shows no fear.'

The relics included the Crown of Thorns which is said to have been placed on the head of Jesus before he was crucified.

Yesterday Paris's 15th district mayor Philippe Goujon confirmed to reporters outside the landmark that the chaplain insisted on being allowed in the cathedral and played a role in the rescue. Etienne Loraillere, an editor for France's KTO Catholic television network, added that Father Fournier



Brave: Jean-Marc Fournier

Icon will rise from ashes in 5 years, vows Macron

EMMANUEL Macron last night vowed to rebuild Notre Dame within five years – and insisted the disaster was an opportunity to make the cathedral 'more beautiful'.

The French President's aim to complete the restoration within such a short timeframe was at odds with some experts' estimates that the project would take decades.

'We will rebuild Notre Dame even more beautifully and I want it to be completed in five years. We can do it,' Mr

Macron said. The president has yet to pledge any funds towards the bill, which is likely to be in excess of £1 billion.

The French government had previously been reluctant to invest money into refurbishing Notre Dame, despite repeated warnings about its decrepit condition, stumping up less than £2 million a year for France's most visited tourist site. Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, yesterday called on EU member countries to donate funds.

Why the flames of Paris wrenched our hearts

AN WILSON – SEE PAGE 18

'went with the firefighters into Notre Dame Cathedral to save the Crown of Thorns and the Blessed Sacrament'.

A photograph of Father Fournier standing outside the cathedral and surrounded by first responders was posted on social media on Monday night.

The Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo tweeted her thanks to the rescuers for forming 'a formidable human chain' to save the irreplaceable objects. The Crown of Thorns, the tunic of

Saint Louis and several other major works are now in a safe place,' she posted.

Father Fournier, who survived an ambush while serving with French forces in Afghanistan, was also noted for his bravery after Islamic State terrorists murdered 89 people using guns and explosives at the Bataclan theatre in November 2015.

He rushed to the venue and prayed over the dead, and comforted those who were injured or had lost loved ones. 'I gave col-

lective absolution, as the Catholic Church authorises me,' he said at the time.

In an interview he gave to Christian Family magazine after that attack, Father Fournier told how he was based in Germany and in France's western Sarthe region before joining the Paris Fire Brigade. He also served in the Diocese of the French Armed Forces and was based for a time in Afghanistan where he was involved in an ambush in which ten soldiers were killed. Father Fournier said: 'On my first trip to Afghanistan, I was seized by fear – everything I saw could potentially be dangerous, as we had learned during training courses.' He has previously posted online that his hobbies include bodybuilding, horse-riding and reading.

Hours before blaze, British choir fills cathedral with song



From the heart: I Dodici were the last singers to perform in historic landmark

From **Arthur Martin** in Paris

A BRITISH choir performed the last concert at Notre Dame before the devastating fire. Twelve members of I Dodici sang choral works in front of the cathedral's altar on Monday morning.

A video filmed by an unknown member of the audience shows the sunshine gleaming through the magnificent stained-glass. She later sent the footage to the London-based group and told them of her 'immense pleasure' at attending the poignant concert with her husband.

She wrote: 'In light of horrible events now unfolding, we thought you should have this video from what now sadly might be the last concert in the cathedral.'

Conductor of the London-based college choir Gabriel Chernick said it was a 'real privilege' to sing in a 'space which has such a rich history'. Asked how he felt when he heard about the fire, he added: 'It was devastating, we all became quite emotionally involved having just performed there.'

MPs: Next fire disaster could be at Parliament

By **Daniel Martin**
Policy Editor

MPS have demanded action to safeguard the Houses of Parliament in the wake of the Notre Dame disaster – as it emerged 60 fires have broken out there over the past decade.

Andrea Leadsom, Leader of the House of Commons, said last year that potentially serious fires broke out in Parliament at a rate of once every two months. Any one of these could have escalated to destroy the 160-year-old building.

Labour MP Chris Bryant said: 'Parts of the Palace are as old as Notre Dame and we must make sure that every fire precaution is taken as the major work goes ahead.' He added: 'God knows we've had enough warnings.'

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said: 'The state of the building is very poor in Westminster and a fire risk is obviously huge with a building that has so much wood within it.'

Cabinet Office minister David Lidington said: 'With each year that passes, the risk of a catastrophic fire grows.'

The original Houses of Parliament burned down in 1834, and experts warn

'God knows we've had enough warnings'

that its magnificent replacement – erected in the 1850s – could suffer the same fate. One of the fires at Westminster was caused by an old electrical cable and was only detected by chance. A source warned: 'Had it occurred at night or at the weekend it is highly likely that it would have caused major damage.'

In another case, a malfunctioning light on an obscure part of the roof caused an electrical fire that could have spread rapidly, had it not been detected at once. Last night a Parliamentary spokesman called fire safety a 'key priority' – but work to make the building safer has been repeatedly delayed over cost fears.

The work is now not expected to take place until the mid-2020s.

The rapid speed at which the fire took hold in Paris has also renewed fears for many of our historic cathedrals and stately homes.

York Minister was partially destroyed by fire in 1984, and Hampton Court was damaged two years later. Much of the Queen's favourite residence of Windsor Castle was also ravaged by fire in 1992.

Three years ago, experts warned that historic buildings across England are at risk of burning down because their owners are blocking attempts to install 'unsightly' fire prevention methods.

Hunchback climbs to top of Amazon charts

VICTOR Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* has shot to the top of an Amazon bestseller list after the blaze.

The original French language version of the 1829 gothic novel became the fastest selling book in France. It was also a leading bestseller worldwide in English in two sub-categories of historical fiction.

The Disney animated movie version of the story also rocketed into the top 10 of family films.

Many critics have argued that the cathedral – the 'majestic and sublime edifice' which Hugo adored – is the central character in the novel.

£650m

French tycoons behind Gucci and Dior pledge cash to restore cathedral



THE amount pledged to help rebuild Notre Dame soared to more than £650million last night – with much of it from three super-rich French dynasties.

The extraordinary response followed Emmanuel Macron's vow to launch an international fundraising scheme to restore the cathedral.

As experts warned the painstaking work could take decades to complete, first came a pledge of £86.5million from billionaire Francois-Henri Pinault, who is married to Hollywood star Salma Hayek.

That was quickly topped by £173million from Europe's richest man Bernard Arnault, 70, and his luxury goods company LVMH.

Then cosmetics giant L'Oreal and its founding Bettencourt family promised a further £173million.

French oil firm Total said it would contribute £86.5million.

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo said the city would provide £43million, while the government of the greater Paris region pledged £8.65million. As thousands poured

By David Wilkes

in from individual donations to other fundraising platforms, blue-chip firms including Vinci, Michelin and BNP Paribas also considering how they can help.

Mr Pinault, 56, is the chairman of the Kering group that owns the Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent and Alexander McQueen fashion brands. He is estimated to be worth £19.5billion.

He told of his shock at seeing the fire and said: 'We need to rebuild collectively this part of our history, of our culture, so it's an urgent, urgent need to move forward, so I decided to unlock a very important amount of money to do that.'

Mr Pinault married Miss Hayek, 52, in Paris on Valentine's Day 2009 in Paris. They have a daughter Valentina, 11.

He owns properties around the world and they moved to London five years ago.

Kering was founded as a wood and building materials company in 1963 by Mr Pinault's father, Francois Pinault, 82. The family also owns auction house Chris-

tie's, a 3,000-piece art collection and vineyards.

Mr Arnault, 70, runs LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE, the world's largest maker of luxury goods. The family's fortune is estimated at £70billion and its business empire includes Christian Dior, Dom Perignon, TAG Heuer and Sephora cosmetics.

The LVMH group said in a statement that 'in solidarity with this national tragedy' it was also putting 'at the disposal of the

'It is a national tragedy'

state and the concerned authorities all its teams, creative, architectural, financial'.

Mr Arnault is said to have wooed his second wife Helene Mercier, a Canadian pianist, by playing Chopin. They live with their three sons live in a 19th century house on Paris's Left Bank.

Known as one of the world's 'ultimate taste-makers', Mr Arnault has described himself as 'an ambassador of French heritage

Billionaires: Francois-Henri Pinault and Salma Hayek, above. Top, Antoine Arnault and Natalia Vodianova at scene yesterday

and culture'. His son Antoine, 41, visited the scene yesterday with his Russian supermodel partner Natalia Vodianova, 37.

L'Oreal boss Francoise Bettencourt Meyers, 65, is the world's richest woman, with a £37.8billion fortune. She is the president of her family's philanthropic foundation, which encourages French progress in the science and arts.

Mrs Meyers is the granddaughter of L'Oreal's founder and the daughter of Liliane Bettencourt, who until her death aged 94 in 2017 was the world's richest woman. As offers of help with Notre Dame's reconstruction poured in from around the globe Peter Fuesenich, the chief architect of Cologne's Gothic cathedral, said: 'It will certainly take years, per-

haps even decades, until the last damage caused by this terrible fire will be completely repaired.'

Cologne cathedral was heavily damaged during the Second World War. Work to repair it continues.

The Vatican said it can offer technical know-how, while Britain's ambassador to France, Ed Llewellyn, said this country stands ready to help.

Sarah Brown, the director of the York Glaziers Trust, which cares for the windows at York Minster – which was devastated by fire in 1984 – said her team had already been in contact with colleagues in France to offer assistance.

The rebuilding task could be made easier by a digital map of Notre Dame created using laser technology three years ago.

Teachers chant Corbyn's name as he vows to scrap SATs in primary schools

By **Eleanor Harding**
Education Editor

A PLEDGE by Jeremy Corbyn to scrap SATs in primary schools was met with a standing ovation by cheering teachers yesterday – but triggered a furious backlash amid warnings it would send education standards plummeting.

The Labour leader's announcement, made during the National Education Union's (NEU) conference in Liverpool, promised to abolish the 'regime of extreme pressure testing' if he wins the next election, claiming SATs give pupils 'nightmares' and harms their mental health.

While it was met with celebratory chants of Mr Corbyn's name during a standing ovation, outside the conference the policy was branded 'terrible and retrograde' that would allow failing schools to hide.

SATs are taken by children aged 11, before they leave primary school, in numeracy and literacy skills including spelling. The tests date back to 1991 and the results, which are published by the Department for Education, allow the Gov-

SATs are taken in reading, maths, writing and grammar, punctuation and spelling every May by 11-year-olds at primary school.

The purpose is to shine a light on underperforming schools which are failing to meet a minimum 'floor standard' – where less than 65 per cent of pupils meet the expected level in reading, writing and maths and do not make sufficient progress. Schools which often underachieve face government intervention. Similar papers, taken by seven-year-olds, are to be replaced by tests for reception-aged children next year.

ernment and parents to see which schools are underperforming – encouraging them to raise standards.

Schools minister Nick Gibb said: 'Labour plan to keep parents in the dark. They will prevent parents from knowing how good their child's school is.'

SATs were implemented under John Major and continued under New Labour. Although the format has been tinkered with frequently, they have always been hated by Left-wing teaching unions, which have led several campaigns to have them abolished or boycotted.

During his speech, Mr Corbyn said: 'We need to prepare children for life, not just for exams. SATs and the regime of extreme pressure testing are giving young children nightmares and leaving them in floods of tears. I meet teachers who are totally overworked and overstressed. These are dedicated public servants. It's just wrong.'

Under the Tories, the tests for 11-year-olds were made much tougher two years ago in a bid to raise standards in numeracy and literacy. Teachers complain that it means other subjects get squeezed out of the curriculum.

Mr Corbyn said his move would reduce workloads for teachers because they would not have to spend time preparing children for tests. 'We will raise standards by freeing up teachers to teach,' he told



COMMENTARY
by **Katharine Birbalsingh**

FOUNDER AND HEADMISTRESS OF MICHAELA COMMUNITY SCHOOL, LONDON.

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn once said he wanted to introduce 'a kinder, gentler' politics to Britain. Now he wants to make our schools more compassionate, irrespective of whether it makes them less demanding.

The centrepiece of his softly-softly approach is the abolition of Standard Assessment Tests (SATs), which were introduced in the 1990s following complaints that the previous system of individual appraisals by teachers was undermining national standards and leading to gross inconsistencies.

But Mr Corbyn, who made his announcement at the conference of the National Education Union yesterday, argues that SATs are unjust and cruel.

A lifelong radical, he sees discipline in schools as a form of oppression and rigorous evaluation of pupils as a barrier to creativity. In his speech to union delegates, he promised that Labour's new form of assessment would embrace 'the learning needs of each child, because each child is unique'.

But this is just wishful thinking. I know the value of testing in measuring quality and driving up levels of achievement. If Mr Corbyn's policy was put into practice, it would cause severe damage to the life chances of huge numbers of primary schoolchildren, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For the truth is that SATs, far from serving as an instrument of victimisation, are actually a vehicle for opportunity, progress and improvement in schools. Indeed, every argument Mr Corbyn makes against SATs is wrong-headed.

He says they are unfair, but the very opposite is true as they are set by an independent organisation, creating a level playing field for all pupils, regardless of race or privilege. SATs see no colour or class, but only the test performance.

But with teacher assessment, the position was very different. Individual teachers could not help but bring their own expectations of the child to the pro-

delegates. 'Labour trusts teachers. You are professionals. You know your job. You know your students.'

Dr Mary Bousted, NEU joint general secretary, welcomed the pledge, saying: 'Jeremy Corbyn gets it. He recognises the damage that a test-driven system is doing to children and schools.'

However, Mr Gibb said SATs have been 'part of school life' for 30 years and pointed out that even New Labour had championed them. 'They have been pivotal in

raising standards,' he said. 'That's why Labour governments led by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown supported them. Abolishing these tests would be a terrible, retrograde step. It would enormously damage our education system, and undo decades of improvement in children's reading and maths.'

'Under Labour, the government would simply give up on ensuring all children can read and write.'

Mark Lehain, director of campaign group Parents And Teach-

ess, as was clearly proved in a study carried out in the 1990s by the National Union of Teachers (NUT), which revealed how such assessments were riddled with bias.

Mr Corbyn frequently highlights his commitment to equality and diversity, but ironically the biggest losers from his abolition of SATs will be pupils with special educational needs and those from working-class or ethnic minority households.

With equal irony, the biggest winners will be pupils in private schools, where the culture of regular testing will continue. In fact, this sector partly flourishes precisely because its pupils are so used to being stretched. We need to continue to match that in state schools.

Misery is not fuelled in state primaries by the SATs regime. On the contrary, pupils are

emotionally fulfilled when they achieve tough goals. A profound sense of personal satisfaction and relief arises from scaling the mountains of challenge, whereas flat landscapes breed a bored complacency.

Similarly, Mr Corbyn said that his alternative will 'prepare children for life, not just exams'. But in reality, that is what SATs do. Most adults' careers are full of tests and challenges. Removing tests is no preparation for life at all.

WHAT Mr Corbyn fails to recognise is why SATs were needed in the first place.

For decades before their introduction, Britain's education system was badly letting down pupils, partly because there were no universal stand-

ards and little real accountability in schools.

Taxpayers deserve to have a system that ensures standards are being maintained across the country. And parents deserve to know what the standards are like in the school that their child attends.

I am not denying that there are problems with SATs. There is, as Mr Corbyn says, too much 'teaching to the test', where pupils can be fed a diet of past papers in preparation for their own exams. And it's true that the demands of SATs, with its emphasis on English and maths, can encourage teachers to spend less time on other subjects. But the answer is not abolition.

The real solution is to adopt a spirit of flexibility and innovation. Blindly removing SATs from primary schools is simple a recipe for despair and decline.

ary of school leaders' union NAHT, said: 'We welcome Labour's approach. SATs do not tell teachers or parents anything they didn't already know about their child or school. Fewer tests would leave more time for a broad range of subjects and activities.'

Julie McCulloch of the Association Of School And College Leaders added: 'SATs are a flawed way of measuring performance and a new approach is long overdue.'

Comment – Page 18



Preaching to the converted: Corbyn at teaching union conference yesterday

HE'S SO WRONG ...PUPILS MUST BE STRETCHED

Er, shouldn't you be in rehearsals, Scary?

By **Jennifer Ruby**
Senior Showbusiness Correspondent

IT'S been more than a decade since they last performed together. But as work gets under way for their reunion tour, one Spice Girl seems in no rush to practise her moves.

Mel B was sunning herself by the pool in Los Angeles yesterday as Geri Horner, 46, Mel C, 45, and Emma Bunton, 43, arrived at a London studio for the second day of rehearsals for the tour, which starts next month. 'Scary Spice' Mel B – full name Melanie Brown, 43 – is 'completing work commitments' at home in LA, her spokesman said.

But she found time to pose in a leopard print bikini before sharing a second picture on Instagram of her wearing a humidifier mask, which she said helps prepare the voice for rehearsals.

Tensions are already running high following Miss Brown's 'hurtful' claims she and Mrs Horner had a lesbian affair in the 1990s. But despite the no-show, Miss Bunton yesterday insisted there is no bad blood between the band, telling This Morning Miss Brown had been keeping in touch through FaceTime.



From the top: Mel C and Geri rehearsing in the studio



Bold look: Melanie Brown goes from bikini to humidifier, inset

Millions could get £300 payout over Mastercard rip-off

By **Sean Poulter**
Consumer Affairs Editor

MILLIONS of Britons may be entitled to a £300 repayment as Mastercard faces legal action over rip-off fees – which could cost it £14billion.

A claim led by former chief financial services ombudsman, Walter Merricks, has been allowed to go ahead after the Court of Appeal yesterday overturned a previous decision to block it.

The claim says around 46million UK consumers paid higher prices on everything – from a pair of shoes to their weekly shop – due to charges imposed on retailers by Mastercard for processing credit and debit card payments over a 16-year period.

Any UK residents over the age of 16 who made purchases from businesses that accepted Mastercard between May 1992 and June 2008 would be automatically included in the claim, unless they opt out.

The legal action, which has been supported by consumer group Which?, was initially filed at the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) in London in 2016, but was

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Mastercard
facing rip-off
payout

From the Mail, November 22, 2017

July 6, 2016

blocked in January last year. That ruling was challenged by Mr Merricks and yesterday the Court of Appeal threw out the tribunal's objections and ordered that the CAT should reconsider the case.

In 2007, legal action was taken against Mastercard and others by the European Commission in response to the high interchange

**'Admit the damage
they have done'**

fees. Mr Merricks said: 'It is nearly 12 years since Mastercard was clearly told they had broken the law by imposing excessive card transaction charges, damaging consumers over a prolonged period.'

'As a result we all had to pay higher prices in the shops than we should have done – while Mastercard have pocketed the profits.'

Since then they have done nothing to apologise, let alone to pay back the money they wrongly caused us to pay out. It's now time for Mastercard to admit the damage they did, to apologise to the British public, and to agree to pay the compensation they owe.'

The Court of Appeal said Mastercard may not appeal to the Supreme Court and ordered it to pay Mr Merricks' costs. Boris Bronfentrinker, of US law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan which is supporting the case, said: 'This is a satisfying victory, but the focus now shifts to securing compensation for the 46million UK consumers who lost out as a result of Mastercard's action.'

However the finance giant made clear it will be launching further appeals. Mastercard also said it 'continues to disagree fundamentally with the basis of the claim'.

Money Mail – Page 39

DJ sets and turntables – it's the BBC's hip hop Proms

CLASSICAL masterpieces, orchestral prowess and sense of occasion have come to define the Proms over the years.

But purists may raise an eyebrow this time around – as the BBC plan to feature hip hop and break dancing.

This year, the concert series will include 'The Breaks' – a prom designed to 'honour

the global phenomenon of hip hop and breakbeat culture'. The concert – on September 6 – is likely to spark criticism from traditionalists.

But yesterday, Proms director David Pickard insisted the time was ripe for it as the divisions between musical genres are 'being broken down'. He said: 'I think the

Proms needs to reflect what is happening to music in 2019. DJing and concertos for turntables are now part of the classical world.' But he warned the BBC would not 'necessarily' edit foul language if it is there in 'a good artistic context'.

The 2019 series – which runs from 19 July to 14 September – will also include a late

night 'mix tape' prom, offering a blend of pieces that promote 'mindfulness'.

■ Queen Victoria's personal grand piano will be played outside of Buckingham Palace for the first time this summer as part of the Proms. Pianist Stephen Hough will perform Mendelssohn's first piano concerto on it during the August 16 concert.

Minister's hard-hitting verdict on jihadi bride's legal aid:

By **Rebecca Camber**
Chief Crime Correspondent

DEFENCE Secretary Gavin Williamson yesterday called for a review of legal aid, saying it was a 'shame' public money is being spent on Shamima Begum's fight to return to Britain.

Mr Williamson said he did not like the fact that taxpayers will have to foot the bill for the jihadi bride's legal challenge against Home Secretary Sajid Javid's decision to remove her citizenship.

He said the runaway London schoolgirl had 'turned her back on this country'.

His comments come after the Daily Mail revealed that Begum, who ran away to Syria aged 15, will get public funding for her legal battle.

Mr Williamson told ITV News: 'It is something that people cannot see as to why she is getting legal aid when she turned her back on this country. People make a choice and she made a choice in terms of turning her back on this country. The Home Secretary has made a judgment, it was a fair judgment, and it is a shame public money is going this way.'

Asked if legal aid rules should be changed, he said: 'This is something that needs to be looked at afresh.'

Begum, 19, is living in a refugee camp in Syria and is eligible for funding because she has no income.

Her family launched a legal challenge on her behalf after the jihadi bride surfaced at the camp in February begging to come home after four years with the terror group.

Mr Williamson's concern echoes that of Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, who said the prospect of Begum getting legal aid made him feel 'very uncomfortable'.

But Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has defended Begum's right to apply for legal aid, saying: 'She

is a British national and, therefore, she has that right, like any of us do, to apply for legal aid if she has a problem.'

Begum's brother-in-law Muhammad Rahman, 36, said: 'She should face the charges against her and if she and the family wants that to happen in Britain, then I support that. I can imagine they are celebrating after hearing legal aid is

People don't like it... and neither do I

Teen terrorist has her sentence cut

THE youngest woman jailed for a terror plot in Britain had her sentence cut by two years yesterday after she was compared to a child grooming gang victim.

Safaa Boular, 19, spurred on sister Rizlaine Boular, 23, and mother Mina Dich, 45, to hatch a suicide bomb attack after she was arrested trying to reach Syria.

Safaa was just 15 when she was wooed by Coventry-born IS fighter Naweed Hussein, 32, who urged her to launch a kam-

kaze attack on the British Museum. They were due to marry.

Joel Bennathan, QC, representing Safaa at the Court of Appeal yesterday, compared her to the girls abused by grooming gangs. He said: 'She had been groomed and radicalised, including sexual grooming by a man twice her age.'

Rizlaine Boular's appeal was dismissed but Safaa Boular's minimum life sentence term was reduced from 13 to 11 years.



Picture: JAMIE WISEMAN

Appeal: Shamima Begum, whose baby died in a Syrian refugee camp

to three child rapists who were ringleaders of a grooming gang.

Basharat Khaliq, Saeed Akhtar and Naveed Akhtar were jailed for more than 57 years at Bradford Crown Court in February after being convicted of rape and child prostitution. Lawyers acting for the trio, from Bradford, received £425,495 in legal aid from the taxpayer – more than ten times the

maximum compensation available to their two teenage victims.

Harry Fletcher, director of the Victims' Rights Campaign, said: 'It is a scandal that these child abusers were given half a million of legal aid, yet the victims received less than 10 per cent of that.'

A Legal Aid Agency spokesman said: 'We are unable to comment on individual cases.'

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Former England footballer Butt, arrested over 'assault on woman'



Class of 92: Nicky Butt, centre, with Ryan Giggs, left, and David Beckham

FORMER Manchester United star Nicky Butt was arrested on suspicion of assault yesterday.

The 44-year-old, who is now head of the club's youth academy, was in custody last night. He was arrested at 2pm yesterday after Greater Manchester Police were called to a report of a woman being assaulted.

The woman was injured in the incident but the cut to her hand was not serious enough to require a trip to the hospital.

Butt played as a midfielder for

By **Jake Hurfurt**

Manchester United, making 387 appearances between 1992 and 2004. He also earned 39 caps for England.

In 2016, he was appointed as head of the club's academy where he is supposed to be a role model for the next generation of stars that he coaches.

Butt was part of a golden generation of young Manchester United talent nicknamed the 'Class of 1992', alongside the

likes of Ryan Giggs and David Beckham. During his career at Old Trafford, he won six Premier League titles, three FA Cups and a Champions League medal.

He moved to Newcastle United in 2004 for £2.5million before ending his career playing in China. A year after retiring from playing, Butt returned to Manchester United as a coach.

Alongside other members of the Class of 92, he owns part of non-league side Salford City.

Butt, born in Gorton, Man-

chester, has been married since 2008 and has two children.

Greater Manchester Police said: 'Police were called at 2pm on Tuesday, to reports that a woman had been assaulted.'

'The woman received a small cut to her hand and does not require hospital treatment. A 44-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of assault.'

It came as another former United star, Paul Scholes, was charged with misconduct by the FA over sports betting.

192,000 up till 2am for new Game of Thrones

By **Susie Coen**
TV and Radio Reporter

FOR the show's fans, it was the most anticipated TV series launch in recent memory.

And 192,000 people were so eager to see the start of the eighth season of fantasy drama Game of Thrones that they stayed up until 2am on Monday to watch it.

That was 70,000 more than the number who waited until the early hours for the start of the seventh series in 2017.

Some 2.5million people recorded the episode and watched it later that day. A further 700,000 viewers tuned in



Hit series: Thrones stars Kit Harington and Emilia Clarke

when the episode was repeated 17 hours later at 9pm. The 3.4million viewers in 24 hours is Sky's biggest overnight audience ever.

Game of Thrones, which has been running for eight years, is based on novels by George R R Martin. The eighth series, starring Kit Harington as Jon Snow and Emilia Clarke as Daenerys Targaryen, cost a reported £69million to make.

The acclaimed show has won 47 Emmy awards, the most by a drama series, including Outstanding Drama Series trophies in 2015, 2016, and 2018.

Peter Dinklage, who plays Tyrion Lannister, has won three Emmys for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series.

Extra ultrasound scans could prevent 4,000 risky C-sections a year

MORE than 4,000 risky emergency Caesareans could be avoided every year if women were given an extra ultrasound scan in late pregnancy, a study shows.

Mothers-to-be typically have the scans at eight to 14 weeks into pregnancy and then again between 18 and 21 weeks.

Experts say another ultrasound at 36 weeks would help spot breech babies – those which are the wrong way round in the womb.

They are usually delivered by emergency Caesarean, which carries a higher risk of bleeding for the mother.

Having an extra scan could give doctors time to try to turn the baby around, or allow a safer planned Caesarean.

The researchers, who looked

By **Victoria Allen**
Science Correspondent

at late ultrasounds given to almost 4,000 first-time mothers, found one in 40 detected a breech baby doctors would not have done. If used routinely across the UK, they say it could detect almost 15,000 breech babies a year.

Study co-author Dr Alexandros Moraitis, of the University of Cambridge, said: 'These scans could be done cheaply during a routine midwife's visit with a portable ultrasound.'

'An additional cost of the scan would be cancelled out by the saving of detecting a breech baby and avoiding an emergency Caesarean.'

'This could be a huge relief for the thousands of mothers who would know whether their baby was breech and have the option to try to turn it around and have a normal delivery. It

could also save them the extreme stress of having an emergency Caesarean for an unexpected breech baby.'

Doctors currently determine if a baby is upside down by feeling for its head and body through a woman's abdomen.

But the study found this approach worked only 44 per

'Save them extreme stress'

cent of the time, missing more than half of breech babies.

Of the 3,879 first-time English mothers given ultrasounds, 179 had breech babies, of which 96 had been undetected by doctors.

The study suggests that an additional ultrasound could save the lives of seven babies a year. Breech babies, which are born bottom-first instead

of head-first, can become stuck in the birth canal.

Researchers, whose study is published in PLOS Medicine, say the procedure could be cost-effective, through savings made avoiding unnecessary emergency C-sections.

■Babies brain-damaged at birth through a lack of oxygen are being given new hope with a MRI scan which improves predictions of problems they might have later in life.

Newborns with hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy get a scan after five days which can predict severe neurological issues such as cerebral palsy but miss more subtle potential problems, such as impaired school performance.

Now doctors at Southampton Children's Hospital are testing enhanced MRI scanning to better 'map' neural connections in the brain, and allow earlier treatment.

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By **Jemma Buckley, Xantha Leatham, George Odling and Sami Quadri**

ECO-WARRIORS have vowed to bring the Tube to its knees today – despite public transport being far better for the environment than driving.

Activists have already caused misery for some 500,000 commuters over two days of chaos on major London roads.

More than 200 have been arrested – including several who travelled more than 100 miles from Stroud in Gloucestershire to join the protests.

Police yesterday failed to move the largely middle-class – and often middle-aged – crowds from Waterloo Bridge, which remained shut in both directions for a second day. More than 55 bus routes had to be suspended as a result.

Business owners say the protests – also taking place at Oxford Circus, Marble Arch, Parliament Square and Piccadilly Circus – are hampering their takings. But Extinction Rebellion, the Left-wing campaign group behind the demonstrations, has said its protests will escalate over two weeks if its demands are not met.

The activists – responsible for a naked protest in Parliament earlier this month – want ministers to set a legally-binding target to reduce net carbon emission to zero by 2025.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said he was ‘extremely concerned’ about plans to target

‘The police need to do something soon’

the London Underground. ‘It is absolutely crucial to get more people using public transport, as well as walking and cycling, if we are to tackle this climate emergency,’ he said.

‘Targeting public transport would only damage the cause of all of us who want to tackle climate change ... and I’d implore anyone considering doing so to think again.’

Last night it emerged that police met members of Extinction Rebellion several times as they plotted to ‘shut down London’.

On Monday, many activists were surprised to find police happy for their demonstration to go ahead. Despite the protest causing havoc for motorists, the first arrests were only made following vandalism of the headquarters of Shell.

That evening, officers eventually attempted to move protesters to Marble Arch in a bid to limit disruption. But the activists refused – prompting waves of arrests which continued overnight and throughout yesterday.

A total of 204 protesters were arrested on the bridge – mostly for public order offences and obstructing the highway – but around 400 remained there last night.

Some had chained themselves to vehicles, while others set up vegetarian food stalls and a creche. The crowds cheered and rang bells as police carried their compatriots away, even goading police by shouting: ‘You can’t arrest all of us!’

At one point a gaggle of protesters on Blackfriars Bridge prevented a defendant being brought to the Old Bailey for sentencing over a weapons offence.

Jay Patel, 26, the manager of Marble Arch News on Edgware Road, said: ‘It’s completely ridiculous, we are losing so much money. There’s

no one here and it’s because no buses can come through. The police need to do something soon as it’s crippling our business.’

Almost every activist adopted a technique called ‘passive resist-

ance’, which involves going floppy during arrest – meaning several officers are needed to carry them into a police van.

Roger Hallam, one of Extinction Rebellion’s founders, said the

group had ‘four or five meetings’ with police before the protests began. Scotland Yard Chief Superintendent Colin Wingrove said: ‘We need to ensure we are striking the right balance between allowing the

right to a peaceful protest, while ensuring disruption to communities is kept to a minimum.

‘We have significant resources in place to deal with any incidents that may arise and officers out on the ground who are well-trained in maintaining public order.’

Dr Gail Bradbrook, a mother of two from Wiltshire described as the ‘godmother’ of Extinction Rebellion, said yesterday: ‘I don’t want to wind people up and I do apologise for the inconvenience, but I have two boys – 10 and 13 – and they won’t have enough food to eat in a few years’ time. Do you understand that?’

The London protests are part of a wider campaign expected to involve 80 cities in more than 33 countries. Hundreds of activists blocked Edinburgh’s North Bridge yesterday, as they called for Holyrood to declare a climate emergency.

Well-heeled warriors of Waterloo Bridge bringing misery to thousands



Climate ‘bigger problem than Brexit’

CLIMATE change is a bigger problem than Brexit as ‘it could literally kill us’, Environment Agency head Sir James Bevan warned yesterday.

He said building a ‘broad coalition’ against climate change could help heal a divided country.

In a speech to the Whitehall and Industry Group charity, he said: ‘You can worry about Brexit if you want, but you’ll be worrying about the wrong thing. If you rank the things that could literally kill us on a scale of one to ten, Brexit isn’t even a one. Climate change is a ten.’

Sir James added that there were similarities

between Brexit and climate change in that the timescales of both are ‘uncertain’ and ‘the consequences highly contested’.

Sir James, a career diplomat and former High Commissioner to India, said the increase in greenhouse gases would lead to rising seas, water shortages, extreme weather, flooding, coastal erosion and droughts.

The Environment Agency, which has more than 11,000 employees, is the government-funded body in charge of protecting air, water and soil quality, and flood protection.



Carnival of chaos: The scene at Waterloo Bridge. Protesters have set up vegetarian food stalls and a creche

By Jemma Buckley, George Odling and Sami Quadri

CARE WORKER

JANE Augsburger, 54, from Stroud, Gloucestershire, was one of those arrested for criminal damage outside Shell's headquarters on Monday.

Pictures show the mother-of-one grinning and kneeling down beside a smashed glass door at the front of the company's office building. The care worker, a Jeremy Corbyn supporter, previously lived in the Dordogne in a luxurious home with a pool.

PROUD PARENT

KATERINA Hasapopoulos, 40, superglued herself to the Shell headquarters on Monday.

Before her arrest, the mother-of-three said: 'Shell is already responsible for destroying lives in places like Nigeria. Shell cares only for profit and I have three beautiful young girls who I want to see grow up to have a future.'

She has previously attended Stroud Town Council to ask questions about climate change.

MOTORWAY MARAUDER

SIMON Bramwell, 46, also from Stroud, is a co-founder of Extinction Rebellion, and a former builder. He was taken away in a police van after supergluing himself to the Shell HQ on Monday. He was part of a group of fanatics who brought the M4 to a standstill in protest at plans to expand Heathrow in 2016. The bush craft instructor said 'hearing less birds' convinced him to form a 'punchier' environmental movement.

JET DISMANTLER

ANGIE Zelter, 76, was arrested yesterday and carried off Waterloo Bridge after refusing to budge. The veteran protester has been arrested over 100 times across the world and describes herself as a 'global citizen'. In 1996 she was part of a group that disarmed a BAE Hawk Jet, preventing it from being exported to Indonesia.

THE GODMOTHER

DR Gail Bradbrook, 47, is described as 'the godmother' of Extinction Rebellion. She became an activist as a result of taking psychedelic drugs. Dr Bradbrook, who has a PhD in molecular biophysics, said drugs 'rewired' her brain and gave her 'the codes of social change'. She holds 'moon circles' in a tepee, where she ingests mugwort.

THE BREAST BOOSTER

ZACK Polanski, a Green Party candidate for the London

So who ARE eco protesters holding capital to ransom?



Carried away: A woman is hauled off Waterloo Bridge

Shortage of cells hampered arrests

POLICE had to delay arresting protesters because they had allegedly run out of cells.

The Met has 638 cells operating 24 hours a day. But refurbishments at Charing Cross police station, where there are 42 cells, hampered efforts to arrest eco-activists yesterday.

The only other custody suites in central London are in Belgravia, where

there are 12 cells, and West End Central, where there are 28 cells.

Police were overheard discussing how they had reached 'maximum capacity', leading to a pause in arrests.

Activists also claimed they had been told by officers that cells were 'full'. Last night, the 204 arrested for protesting on Waterloo Bridge were all in custody.



Simon Bramwell: Says he misses birds

Jane Augsburger: Lived in Dordogne

Assembly once claimed his hypnotherapy skills could help women grow bigger breasts. He said: 'It's so safe and cheaper than a boob job.'

PALACE RAIDER

ROWAN Tilly, from Oxford, was among protesters who took part in an 'anti-nuclear raid' at Buckingham Palace in 1993. The furniture maker compared her civil disobedience

to the actions of Gandhi, Martin Luther King and the suffragettes.

ORGANIC FARMER

ROGER Hallam, 52, became interested in climate change in his 40s when an organic farm he ran in Wales went bust because of bad weather. He now wants to 'bring down all the regimes in the world', starting with Britain.

THE ACTRESS

LAURA Reeves, an actress and artistic director from London, has previously lived in New York and worked for the United Nations. Her show reel lists roles in adverts for River Island and Nikuma Jewellery. She has also posted photographs of holidays in Peru and at the Burning Man festival in Nevada, US.

Showing MPs how to get on with the job

HOW long it seems since Project Fear predicted Britain would suffer economic apocalypse if it voted to leave the EU!

While government *has* screeched to a halt, paralysed by Brexit, in the real world people are doing an extraordinary job of keeping the country ticking along.

Figures published yesterday require trumpeting from the rooftops. Employment stands at a record high, joblessness has dropped to 3.9 per cent – its lowest level since Harold Wilson was prime minister – and wages are still strong.

Meanwhile, a report reveals the UK has become the world's top investment destination for the first time – streaking past the US.

True, the EU sniggers at our Brexit contortions. But it can only glare jealously at the ongoing jobs miracle while the eurozone flounders.

However, don't kid yourself that our preening MPs, who stymied our departure and reduced Britain to a laughing stock, have got their noses to the grindstone.

Instead of focusing on the thorny issue at hand they've been posting social media pictures of themselves gallivanting on their Easter break.

The EU Parliament's Brexit negotiator Guy Verhofstadt was distinctly unimpressed: 'This is the first decision the Commons has taken: to go on holidays.'

For once, the Mail agrees with him unreservedly. Will wonders never cease!

An abject assessment

HEARING the crowd loudly chanting, 'Oh, Jeremy Corbyn', a passer-by might be forgiven for thinking they'd inadvertently stumbled upon a gathering of Labour-worshipping idealistic students.

In fact, most singers were teachers at a union conference – fully paid-up members of the Left-wing education establishment known as 'the Blob'.

The fount of their euphoria? Mr Corbyn had promised – if he seized power – to dismantle rigorous SATs tests for ten and 11-year-olds. They gave pupils 'nightmares', he insisted, and rendered teachers 'overworked and overstressed'.

To the union reps, this is catnip. The militants loathe the assessments and have fought them tooth and nail. What they seem unable to fathom is that schools are meant to serve pupils, *not* teachers.

Entirely reasonably, SATs provide a snapshot of how children are faring in reading, writing and mathematics. If they struggle, and it is not spotted, they may never catch up – ruining their chances at secondary school and, later, at work.

The tests also highlight staff who are not doing their job – anathema to the unions.

We are the first to applaud the many superb teachers who strive to push up standards. But abolishing SATs would be a damaging step back to the past – a place Mr Corbyn and his archetypal class warriors belong.

■ WILL a day ever pass without news of another anti-Semitic Labour MP or candidate crawling out from under a rock? Yesterday, arch-Corbynista Richard Burgon, the party's bungling justice spokesman, was exposed as a liar after he repeatedly denied saying 'Zionism is the enemy of peace'. Awkwardly, he'd made the slur on film. The Labour leader has a foul history of clapping virulent Jew-haters to his bosom. No wonder his acolytes are so comfortable embracing this insidious form of racism.

■ OUR hearts go out to the people of Paris after the inferno that ripped through Notre Dame. Mercifully, the Gothic masterpiece was not completely destroyed – as our reporter Robert Hardman, among the first inside, testified. All that has gone can be rebuilt. But it is a salutary warning to Britain. Parliament, parts of which date to 1097, is in a dreadful state, a tinderbox at risk of conflagration. If refurbishment work does not start swiftly and disaster strikes, our politicians will not be forgiven.

The power of the human spirit in a godless age... and the true reason Notre Dame's flames wrenched our hearts

WHEN we first heard the news, it wrenched at our hearts. We all felt we were losing something infinitely precious and something almost personal to ourselves.

As the fire hoses were trained on the inferno, men and women were running bravely in and out of the flaming building, saving here a statue, a religious relic, there a painting, a precious vestment – each separate object in its way a symbol of the huge numbers of human beings whose creativity had made this place.

Human beings whose deepest hopes, imaginative dreams and aspirations had helped create what is perhaps the greatest cathedral in the world.

Passionate

Notre Dame has been, for all of us, an embodiment of Paris and its history. Of that city's medieval Catholic past, its religious wars, its national triumphs and disasters.

When I try to put into words what it was like on Monday evening to see the images of Notre Dame in flames, it seems almost uncanny to me now. Because only two weeks ago, looking round for something to read on a holiday, I took it into my head to read Victor Hugo's masterpiece which most of us know as *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame*. Its French title is simply, *Notre Dame De Paris*, one of the great works of French literature.

I had never read the book, and knew only the 1939 film with Charles Laughton as Quasimodo the hunchback, obsessed with love for Esmerelda and deafened by 'the bells, the bells!' But it begins with a great disquisition on Gothic architecture and what we all owe to it.

Hugo, who wrote the book in 1830, could not have been more vivid and passionate in his descriptions of Notre



by A.N. Wilson

Dame with its flying buttresses and towering spires, its high arching interiors. He regarded its architects as poets who had liberated man's spirit.

Soaring to the heavens, the cathedral was to him the greatest expression of collective human endeavour and, though he was a non-believer, of humanity's faith in God.

The paradox of Notre Dame today – and, indeed, of all the great Gothic cathedrals of Europe – is that in this largely post-Christian age it has outlasted its original reason for existing.

And yet that is why it matters so much to us, modern, confused and agnostic as most of us are.

In times of faith, the cathedral was divisive. The French were tearing themselves apart with religious wars – Protestant versus Catholic – in the 16th century, and they tried to abolish Christianity with equal zeal during the Revolution, demolishing other Gothic cathedrals and churches while Notre Dame thankfully survived.

But now, in our secular world, cathedrals unify us as never before.

Why do these wonderful great Gothic edifices of the Middle Ages, and Notre Dame in particular, have such enormous significance in our lives? Why do hundreds of thousands of visitors each year flock to Notre Dame, Chartres, Westminster Abbey, Salisbury, York Minster, Cologne?

It is because we recognise that the cathedrals of the Middle Ages are among the greatest – I would say the greatest – works of art in Europe. This is partly because they are not the work of individuals, but of whole communities.

Unlike the symphonies of Beethoven or the plays of Shakespeare, they are

anonymous and collective. European humanity made them over centuries, and European humanity has loved and adapted and needed them ever since they were built.

It is astonishing to me that we use the word 'medieval' as a term of abuse. We say, 'It is positively medieval' to mean some practice is brutal, cruel or unsophisticated.

When we use such a phrase, we should look at the architecture produced in our own age – inhuman tower blocks, multi-storey car parks smelling of urine, ugly shopping malls – and ask what we have built that comes within a million miles of the sophistication of Notre Dame.

And we should then ask what that building set out to do. Yes, in the narrowest terms, Notre Dame set out to be a place of Catholic worship, where monks could chant the psalms and mutter the mass.

But a cathedral is making a statement about humanity, about the centrality of beauty to human experience and about the ultimate, awe-inspiring puzzle of our existence.

Cherish

To these buildings, nations have come together in their times of great collective experience, for the state funerals, royal weddings, solemn memories of war that bind us all together.

To these buildings, too, however, when no ceremonies are in progress, millions of men and women have come quietly for hundreds of years with their own secret sorrows, joys and hopes.

And, staring upwards at the swooping arches and coloured glass and the carved statues of kings, virgins, prophets and angels, they have confronted the deep mystery of the world. Lord Salisbury, the great

Victorian prime minister, addressing a group of scientists in 1894, said: 'We live in a small bright oasis of knowledge surrounded on all sides by a vast unexplored region of impenetrable mystery.'

In our own day, some so-called born-again atheists have ignored this fact. They have held out the pathetic illusion that every aspect of life can be explained in materialist terms.

The huge numbers of people who cherish our cathedrals know this is not the case, and that at the deepest level, while retaining all our critical faculties and all our powers of reason, we need these spaces, and the music and light they contain.

Vivid

Our hearts cracked when we saw Notre Dame burn for another reason. It happened at a time of miserable squabbling over the future of Europe. Brexit has made some people imagine that Europe is a dirty word.

The truth is that whatever we think about Brexit or a customs union, or any of the esoteric options lying before our often-idiotic politicians, we are all heirs of a great common history.

So much of our music, our philosophy, our idea of right and wrong, came to us filtered through the Christian story, whatever we might make of that story now.

We do not necessarily believe in the way our forebears did. But this only increases our devotion to the Gothic masterpieces of the Age of Faith.

Few houses of faith have such a vivid story to tell as Notre Dame de Paris.

The work of rebuilding will begin as soon as the rubble is cleared. The common determination to restore the place will be shared not only by the people of France, but by all Europeans – who, as they watch Notre Dame rise again, will once again marvel at the values and stories and human creativity embodied in such a temple.

Sarah Vine

Columnist
of the year

Oh baby, Meghan's got a lot to learn

THERE was something about the wonderful pictures of the Duchess of Sussex as a newborn in the arms of her mother Doria in the Mail this week that reminded me a little of the arrival of my own daughter, almost 16 years ago.

The same cross little expression on the baby and the same look in her new mother's eyes, a mixture of shock, exhaustion and awe.

But most of all, in the background, the calm and knowing presence of Granny.

No one knows better how your first birth is likely to turn out than your own mother, who's been there, done that and can offer honest, practical advice. And just as her mother was such a reassuring presence, I'm sure Doria, now it's Meghan's turn, has been a fount of wisdom for her daughter.

As we know, Meghan — due any day now — is planning a midwife-led home labour, away from the 'men in suits'. She also reportedly favours a water birth, and is using yoga, meditation and homeopathy to prepare for the arrival.

Apparently, she wants it to be 'as natural as possible: no drugs, no caesareans and so on'.

I would expect nothing less from this most modern of young royals who has always been a staunch advocate of a healthy, holistic lifestyle. If anyone has a chance of achieving the kind of magical, mystical birth that every woman dreams of, it's her. But I do hope Doria is advising Meghan to keep her feet on the ground over this apparent desire for perfection.

I have nothing against home births, water births — or for that matter any kind of birth.

It's just that having babies is not an exact science. Labour can, it is true, be a beautiful experience. But it can also be savage and elemental. And you never really know how it's going to pan out.

To be prepared, a woman really needs to be open to all eventualities. Yet a whole industry seems to have sprung up to feed mothers-to-be the notion we are wholly in control of the process (we are not: that's Mother Nature prerogative, and she is a capricious old cow) and that there is a right and wrong way of having a baby.

In recent years, this has come to mean that having a child without medical intervention or

JUNE BROWN — Dot Cotton in EastEnders — is absolutely right when she says there's no point in giving up the booze and fags at her age (92). It reminds me of the time — years ago — when my father gave up drinking. After about six weeks he took it up again. His reasoning? If unrelenting sobriety was going to be the rest of his life, he could see no reason to prolong it.

pain relief is in some way morally superior. Natural good; medically assisted bad.

It's an attitude summed up by a friend of mine who, having undergone an elective caesarean with her second child following serious complications with her first, was asked by her health visitor whether she ever 'felt cheated' she didn't 'have a proper labour'. The answer, of course, was no. Or at least she hadn't up until then.

There is nothing wrong with having an ideal vision of how you would like your baby to be born. Just as long as you keep in mind that things may turn out to be very different.

OTHERWISE you could end up like another friend who had her heart completely set on a water birth at home.

She and her husband had it all worked out: the pool, the TENS machine, the fairy lights, the beach balls, the Peruvian pan pipe music — everything.

I spoke to her just as she was going into labour. Then waited for the jubilant phone call. And waited. And waited. Nothing.

Two days later, a shaken new father called me. It had been a car crash, hours of agony ending in a mad dash to the hospital and an emergency caesarean.

My poor friend was traumatised — all the worse because she had expected it to be such a wonderful, 'empowering' experience.

I'm sure that Meghan will be fine. Not least because if things don't go according to plan, those dreaded 'men in suits' will be on standby with their pesky science to make sure no harm comes to either her or the baby.

But I would just urge her not to get too fixated on the idea of the 'perfect birth'.



Picture: ROBERT VIGLASKY

A touch of Killing Eve, 007?

CAN everyone please stop raving about Fleabag? I'm as keen as the next person, but there is a fine line between adored and over-exposed, and we don't want the nation to reach peak Phoebe Waller-Bridge before — as rumoured — she has

worked her magic on the new James Bond movie. If she can bring even a little bit of Villanelle — the mesmerising anti-heroine of Killing Eve (played by Jodie Comer; pictured) — to 007's stuffy old-school format, then we could be in for the ride of our lives.

Call me a knucklehead...

I'M AFRAID the news that Shamima Begum might be in receipt of legal aid to pursue her right to remain a British citizen just drives me mad.

So many of my rational, better-educated friends have tried to persuade me that I am being a knucklehead, that she deserves to have her case heard, that it is the mark of a truly civilised society that we should respect her human rights.

Yeah, yeah... I have no doubt that, morally and philosophically, they are correct. But it still gets me in the gut.

I thought it was revolting

that Islamist hate preacher Abu Hamza managed to play the legal system so successfully, evading justice while at the same time mocking everything we hold dear; and I think it equally reprehensible that Shamima Begum — who has so blatantly embraced an ideology that presided over the rape, murder, torture and genocide of thousands of innocents — should also benefit.

I don't care about the moral high ground; I care about right and wrong. And wasting a single penny of taxpayers' money on that woman just sticks in the craw.

AS A long-time fan of Game Of Thrones, I must confess to finding the first episode of the final series incredibly dull and ponderous. The joy of this show was always its outlandish absurdity; but now it — and all the main characters — seems to be taking it all far too seriously. Especially Jon Snow and Daenerys (right), who are moping around like a pair of lovelorn goths, giving new



meaning to the saying: 'It's grim up north.' Lighten up, guys: less hand-wringing and more gnashing of teeth. Preferably big, sharp, pointy dragon ones...

NEXT is introducing half sizes to help women find a pair of jeans that fit perfectly. I must confess, I've never found jeans that fitted. Even when I was young and relatively sylph-like, jeans were always a nightmare. After years of stuffing myself into variously uncomfortable and unyielding pieces of unflattering denim, I gave up. I haven't worn jeans for years — I don't even own a pair. Has my life been less fulfilling as a result? No. What a load of nonsense.

TO ALL the very-pleased-with-themselves eco-warriors reducing London to a standstill: you do know that the very worst thing for toxic emissions is an idling engine, don't you? And that thanks to you, thousands of Londoners — including many inner-city children whose families can't afford to take them on holiday this week — will be inhaling several times the amount of traffic fumes they normally do.

Save Big Ben from catastrophe

THE terrible fire at Notre Dame is a salutary reminder of the deep emotions that iconic monuments provoke. A case in point is the Palace of Westminster. Majestic as it is, this great Neo-Gothic landmark is, rather like the democracy it represents, in desperate need of renovation. It is riddled with rot and asbestos, infested with vermin, the plumbing is pre-war — and the whole thing is a giant fire hazard. In the past decade, over 40 fires have broken out within its walls. It is not a question of 'if', rather when. And yet whenever a restoration programme is suggested the reaction is one of

horror: how can we possibly justify spending vast sums of money (latest estimates put the cost of the works at around £3.5 billion) on MPs when public trust in politics is at an all-time low? But that's not the point. MPs come and go: this is about the nation. The Houses of Parliament are so much more than the people who work there, just as Notre Dame is so much more than a Catholic church. It doesn't matter how broken our democracy is: if we don't ever want to witness the clocktower of Big Ben toppling like the spire of Notre Dame, we need to act.

EU CHIEF: WHY ARE

I fear they will run down clock again, warns top negotiator

By **Daniel Martin**
Policy Editor

A SENIOR EU negotiator said yesterday he believes Britain will waste its latest Brexit extension.

Guy Verhofstadt, European Parliament Brexit coordinator, said the UK will probably 'run down the clock' once again.

He criticised MPs' decision to go off on holiday as soon as the six-month extension had been agreed.

Mr Verhofstadt said delaying Brexit to the end of October risked prolonging the uncertainty of the process because it was 'too near for a substantial rethink and at the same time too far away to prompt any action'.

In an address to the European Parliament, he said: 'My fear is that with this decision, the

CHEERING MPs GET ANOTHER HOLIDAY

From the Daily Mail, April 12

pressure to come to a cross-party agreement disappears. And that both parties, the Conservatives and Labour, will again do what they did for months – run down the clock.

'And the proof of this is that the first decision the House of Commons took after your decision was to go on holidays.'

Mr Verhofstadt said both parties could be wiped out in May's European elections, adding: 'Maybe the only thing that can save us is Nigel Farage now.'

The intervention came as EU Council president Donald Tusk said he still believed Britain may not leave the EU.

The Brussels chief told MEPs in Strasbourg that after Brexit was delayed until October 31 the UK

would continue to be represented in the European Parliament for 'several months – maybe longer'.

European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker told MEPs the EU would also be hit by the disruption a No Deal Brexit would bring to the UK.

He said: 'Our union has nothing to gain from great disruption in the United Kingdom.'

'The only ones who would benefit

are those who resent multilateralism and seek to undermine the global legal order.'

Nigel Farage claimed his new Brexit Party would 'sweep the board' at the elections on May 23.

He told the European Parliament: 'There is only one way it can be stopped and that is if the governing party of Mrs May and the opposition of Mr Corbyn come together and agree to a permanent



Andrew Pierce
reporting

GIVEN his role as the European Parliament's Brexit co-ordinator it's rare that he says anything us Britons agree with. But yesterday Guy Verhofstadt spoke for many when he warned that Britain's dithering MPs are once again running down the clock until the next No Deal Brexit cliff-edge in October.

'The proof of this,' he said incredulously, 'is the first decision the Commons has taken – to go on holidays.'

Mr Verhofstadt had a point. While we're all working, the Commons has shut down for an 11-day Easter recess, and dozens of MPs, who have stymied Brexit and reduced Britain to an international laughing stock, are tweeting merrily about their holidays without a care in the world.

Quite who'll be interested in these snaps with their trite messages is anyone's guess.

Take Tory Luke Graham, a Tory MP who did not waste any time flying out of Britain, publishing a picture of himself beside a tulip-bed in Amsterdam with an expansive gesture and a wide grin.

Meanwhile, eyebrows were raised at the veteran Conservative MP Sir Bernard Jenkin's decision to go on holiday in Belgium, the procedural heart of the EU. Sir Bernard, a leading figure in the arch-



Tweets from Amsterdam: Luke Graham in a tulip bed in Holland

Brexit European Research Group (ERG) of Tory MPs – many of whom staunchly opposed the Prime Minister's Withdrawal Agreement – is on a sightseeing tour of Ghent, less than an hour from Brussels. 'I

thought Belgium would be the last place anyone would expect to see Bernard Jenkin,' sniffed one Theresa May loyalist.

The similarly hardline Eurosceptic Steve Baker, who resigned as Brexit minister last

but Jeremy Corbyn yesterday warned they were stalling.

The Labour leader said the party had put its case that the future relationship with Europe had to mean a customs union, but added Mrs May was under pressure from Tories who wanted 'to turn this country into a deregulated low-tax society' to do a trade deal with US President Donald Trump. He added: 'I don't want to do that.'

customs union, and indeed effectively membership of the single market.

'If that happens, the Brexit Party won't win the European elections but it will win the general election because the betrayal will be so complete and utter, so I don't believe it's going to happen.'

In Westminster, cross-party talks between Labour and the Government continued at an official level

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MPs ON HOLIDAY?

selfies show, the Mail agrees with Brussels



Belgian break: Bernard Jenkin's snap of his wife Anne in Ghent summer, has returned to his native Cornwall for his Easter break. The MP for Wycombe, who was born in St Austell, posted photographs of Mevagissey Harbour and the interior of a pub.

Mr Baker, the deputy chairman of the ERG, rejects any responsibility for the fact Brexit still hasn't happened – even though he has voted three times against the PM's deal.

The Labour ex-cabinet minister Yvette Cooper, an architect of the move to wrest power from government on Brexit and hand it to Parliament, has travelled to Paris. Ms Cooper, whose Bill taking a No Deal Brexit off the table was passed by a single vote, published a photograph of the blaze at Notre Dame Cathedral, saying: 'Have just come away from the bank of the Seine after the spire fell as I can't bear to watch any more.'

Ellie Reeves, the Labour MP for Lewisham West and Penge, is in Wales. She posted a photograph



Commons peaker: Rachel Maclean with her dogs on a walking holiday in the Lake District

by a cosy wood stove, saying: 'It's been a busy few months. Taking some time out in Wales for a much needed rest.'

Nadine Dorries, another Brexiteer Tory MP who has reluctantly voted for Mrs May's deal, posted a photograph of a remote beach in Devon. 'Sunny but freezing!' was her verdict.

Brexiteer Tory MP Rachel Maclean, who also supports the

PM's deal, is on a walking holiday in the Lake District with her two rescue dogs.

The Redditch MP paid tribute to the animals' ascent of Blencathra: 'Well done Herbie on his first proper hill – he razzled up and down with no problem at all!' she wrote. 'Following in his big sister Phoebe's steps.'

Let's hope the MPs – including the Prime Minister herself, qui-

etly walking in Snowdonia – are enjoying these breaks while they last. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn warned yesterday that Brexit talks with the Government are on the verge of collapse.

Our lawmakers may soon need their phones for more than tweeting jolly holiday snaps. They might find themselves summoned back on them to get back to work.



Devon on earth: Nadine Dorries (inset) on her beach break



Rudd: It's entirely possible I could run for leader

AMBER Rudd declared it was 'entirely possible' she would run to become Tory leader.

The Work and Pensions Secretary said she was 'keeping the door slightly ajar' to the possibility of becoming a candidate.

In a BBC radio interview Miss Rudd said she 'didn't have a plan' to stand in a leadership contest but repeatedly refused to rule out joining the race to be the next Conservative leader.

She also played down suggestions she would team up with Boris

By John Stevens
Deputy Political Editor

Johnson on a joint ticket. She said: 'I'm going to continue to support the Prime Minister, she has said that she is going to leave after the withdrawal agreement of the first stage is through...'

Asked what she will do then she replied: 'I can tell you I don't have a plan for it, I'm choosing my words carefully here.'

Pressed on whether she was

'working on it' she replied: 'No, I'm not particularly working on it, I'm speaking to you very genuinely here, I'm just working on supporting the Prime Minister and getting this deal through, that's what's most important.'

'What I've said is that I'm not planning to run, so I have kept the door slightly ajar, but I'm not committed to it at the moment.'

Asked about rumours that she is planning on standing on a joint ticket with former foreign secretary Mr Johnson, nicknamed

Bamber, (Boris and Amber) by the media, she said she was 'not supporting anybody'.

'I'm not going to be drawn unequivocally on one candidate or another,' she added.

She said 'the area we really disagree on is how we leave the European Union', saying the One Nation caucus of Conservative MPs she formed with ex-education secretary Nicky Morgan would not back a candidate who advocates a No Deal Brexit.

She added: 'So what we oppose,

not everybody in the One Nation caucus, but almost everybody, is leaving without a deal, which we think would be damaging. So that's where we start.

'And on that I'm afraid I do have a disagreement with a number of my colleagues.'

Radio 5 Live host Emma Barnett then said if the group fails to find someone who fits their criteria: 'You're just going to have to step in, aren't you?' Miss Rudd replied: 'That is entirely possible, I don't rule it out.'

House that cares for you

Hi-tech that'll let dementia sufferers live independently

By **Ben Spencer**
Medical Correspondent

THIS is the hi-tech house with the goal of revolutionising dementia care.

Packed with sensors that can pick up on everything from changes in eating habits to looming infections, such a home aims to allow dementia sufferers to live independently.

The Government-backed project could keep thousands of elderly people out of care homes or hospital wards.

Early trials show scanners, miniature radar monitors and door sensors can be used to track movement, pick up early signs of infection and alert relatives if someone has fallen.

Within a decade, a cheap 'dementia kit' could be prescribed by a GP and installed by an engineer to transform any home, scientists say.

They believe such technology could transform the 'broken' dementia care system in which many families are abandoned to cope without help from the NHS.

The project – a partnership

between Imperial College and Surrey University – is the focus of a £20million dementia research centre at Imperial's new campus in west London. Scientists believe the technology – much of which is already available – could cut thousands of hospital admissions by

monitoring patterns of behaviour and picking up problems early.

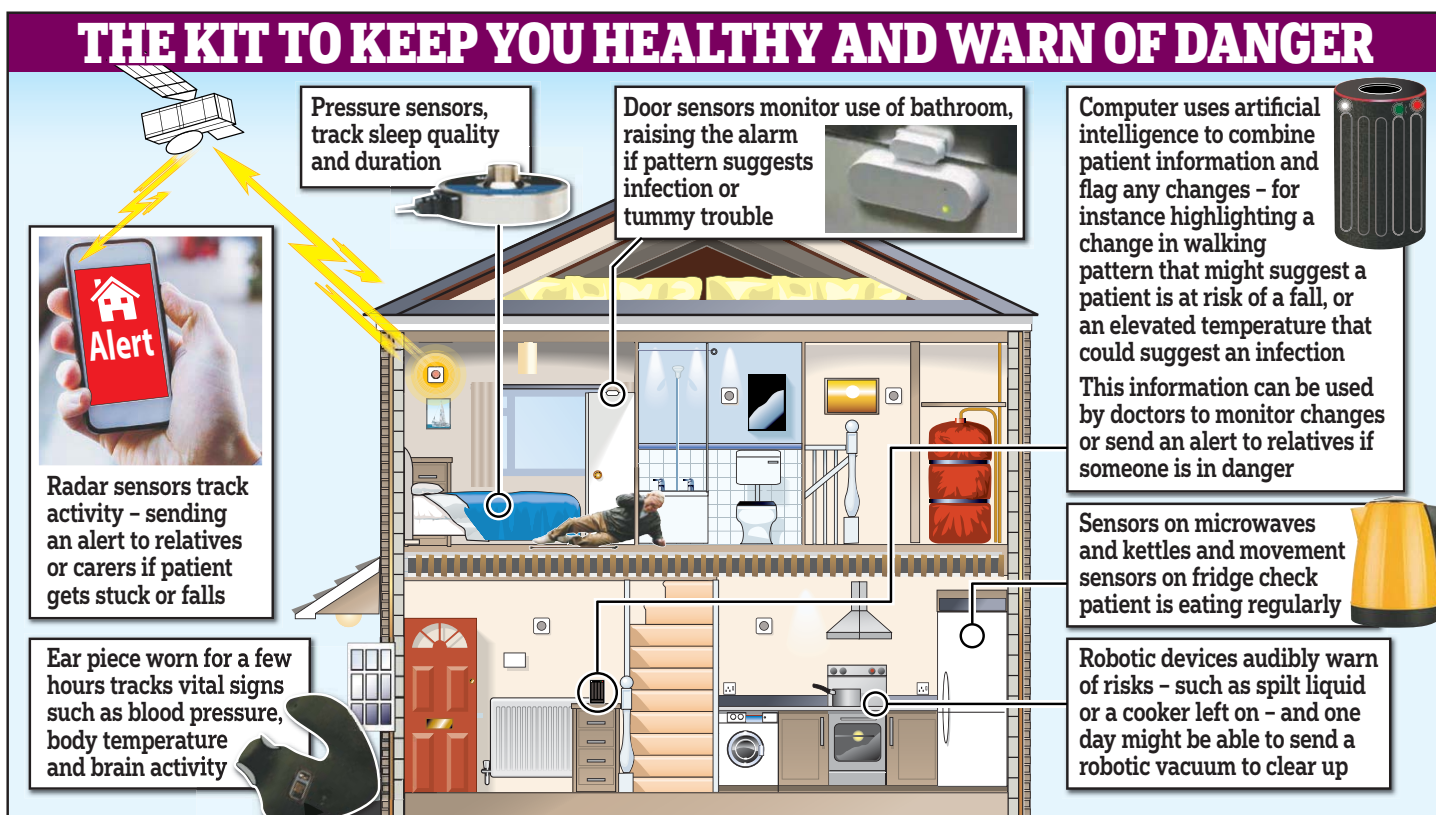
Crucially it is very cheap – with sensors costing as little as £10 with apps and software that control the system available for free. The most expensive part would be a smartphone to view the data.

Professor David Sharp, head of the new centre, said doctors could begin offering such technology within ten years.

'You might have your dementia engineer come over and deploy the technology into your home,' he said. 'So this may sound like sci-

ence fiction, but I think many of the elements of this are in place.'

Technology being developed includes sensors to track a patient's heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature, as well as brain activity, sleep and even someone's gait.



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Caught on CCTV: The woman, wearing a mask and wig, climbs over a gate with an acid bottle before attacking a car

Village left reeling by the Acid Devil

'Middle-aged woman' in mask behind spate of car vandalism

By Izzy Ferris

A MIDDLE-AGED woman in a devil mask is being hunted by police over a spate of acid attacks on cars in a village.

Six vehicles have been targeted in the past 18 months in St Briavels in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

Locals claim the bizarre attacks are the result of 'ancient feuds' within the 1,000-strong community.

In one incident, the paint on a Renault Megane Scenic was stripped back to the metal and the car's windscreen wipers and lights melted. Another villager said they have CCTV images of the woman, wearing a devil mask and black curly wig, throwing acid all over her Land Rover.

The mask and wig were later found abandoned, and locals are now offering a £2,000 reward to catch the culprit.

'This stuff takes no prisoners'

They claim the woman has also been posting pornographic material through letter boxes and cat flaps in the middle of the night.

One theory is that she is a disgruntled resident angered by a planning dispute – as all the victims are members of the parish council or on the committee of the Assembly Rooms, the village hall.

A villager said: 'All of the victims are upstanding local residents, who work tirelessly in a voluntary capacity for the good of the community and numerous charitable causes.'

The latest victim, music teacher John Hurley, was said to be 'the most inoffensive, quiet living, kind and considerate person' who dedicated himself to voluntary work in St Briavels.

Mr Hurley, 73, said his Renault had been so badly damaged he fears it could be written off. The gel-like acid melted the plastic wipers and headlamps – as well as a plastic spatula he



Shock: Attacks have rocked the community of St Briavels, Gloucestershire



Found: The culprit's devil mask



Damaged: Acid stripped paint on a Renault Megane

tried to scrape it off with. He added: 'Luckily I was aware of the previous attacks so as soon as I saw it I knew straight away what it was. If I hadn't known and touched it, it would have been disastrous.'

'It's devastating to think there are people in our community who could do such a thing. Police appear to be taking it very seriously. They will be caught. It's only a matter of time.'

Tens of thousands of pounds of damage has been caused to five cars and a motor home – with the family living in the lat-

ter understood to have since fled the village.

Locals also fear the woman in the mask has an accomplice, with one villager claiming they had CCTV of two attackers.

They said: 'Our home security cameras showed at least two people involved in the attack on our vehicle.'

'The pair pulled up in a vehicle. One was a stout, bald, middle-aged man wearing glasses, accompanied by a tallish, middle-aged woman who was wearing a devil's mask, black curly wig, a poncho and boots with a distinctive thick, white sole,

who proceeded to throw acid all over our black Freelander.'

'A wig and devil's mask matching the security footage was later recovered along with an acid bottle cap, which was handed to the police.'

Parish councillor Andrew Clarke said: 'They need to catch those responsible before it escalates. Can you imagine if somebody caught the perpetrators in the act? They are likely to throw the acid over them and run. This stuff takes no prisoners.'

Gloucestershire Police confirmed they had received reports of the attack on the Renault Megane overnight on March 21.

PAUL THOMAS IS AWAY

Ephraim Hardcastle



SYMPATHISING with President Macron over the Notre Dame conflagration, Prince Charles refers to the 1992 Windsor Castle fire. Was this wise? Macron pledges to fund the cathedral reconstruction just as John Major promised the British taxpayer would pay for the £37million restoration of Windsor. There was a public outcry and Major backtracked on paying for all the work. The Queen had to find £2million and was obliged to open Buckingham Palace to cover the shortfall, forgetting perhaps that the public owned the building already.

EMMA Corrin's casting as Princess Diana in The Crown has caught the attention of Clarence House. Until now, the royals have ignored the Netflix saga as most of those portrayed are dead, the Queen isn't litigious and Prince Philip doesn't watch it. But Charles is not one to take such things lightly. His lawyers will be watching closely when filming begins. William and Harry will also take an interest. Few matters unite them more than their mother.

THE Queen, 93 on Sunday, celebrated her 21st birthday in Cape Town where a South African jumped on to the running board of her open-top car. He was robustly thumped by a parasol-wielding Queen Mother. After his arrest, he confessed he was trying to give the then Princess Elizabeth a birthday present: ten shillings (50p), his entire life savings.

GRUMPY Jeremy Paxman, 68, in a doctor's waiting room perusing an article about Michelle Williams, 38, pictured, whinges he's never heard of the Hollywood beauty, adding: 'She doesn't do Instagram. Now that, my friends, is truly astonishing. It's enough to make you question your own pulse.' Paxo, you should get out more!



LORD Sugar responds to Jeremy Corbyn's tweet about multinational tax dodgers, asking: 'Did you get your Starbucks on the way to the office and use your Apple phone which you may have bought from Amazon? POT-KETTLE.' Imagine being on a desert island with either of them!

AUSTRALIAN Barry Humphries' mocking of the transgender movement prompts the earnest ladies of Melbourne to replace the Barry Award in his name with the International Comedy Festival Award. And what did Barry say to offend? 'How many different kinds of lavatory can you have?'

STILL slightly charred after fleeing the flames in her Belgravia flat, Dame Joan Collins, 85, compares her fate to Notre Dame, tweeting: 'Having just escaped from a fire, I know how terrifying and ghastly it can be.' Thankfully, both historic treasures are still standing.

FANS seeking selfies should approach John Cleese with caution. 'It irritates me so much,' barks the curmudgeon. 'I've sometimes responded by saying, "What? To commemorate the fact that we met four seconds ago?"' Basil Fawlty lives!

Email: john.mcentee@dailymail.co.uk

EIGHT years since her first 50 Shades Of Grey bonk-buster was published, E.L. James is back with a new hero and heroine to entertain the millions hooked on her lucrative brand of panting mummy porn.

It is time to say goodbye to handsome sadomasochistic American billionaire Christian Grey and the demure but captivatingly beautiful student Anastasia Steele, his willing accomplice throughout five torrid books and three terrible films.

And it's time to say hello to 50 Shades Of Brit, in the form of handsome, sex-mad millionaire The Honourable Maxim Trevelyan, aka Lord Trevelyan, the 13th Earl of Trevelthick, a green-eyed hunk with dimples on his bottom and a winning way with women. ('As you wish, I growl and thrust inside her').

He owns a 30,000 acre Cornish estate and 'a mop of unruly chestnut curls with gold highlights that glint beneath the magnificent chandelier in his hallway.' Not a euphemism,



by Jan Moir

ladies, the author really does mean his lovely apartment in London.

Maxim is the star of The Mister, E.L. James's new novel that takes us from the Chelsea Embankment to Cornwall to Albania and even — gasp — to Brentford, as the good lord pursues his demure but captivatingly beautiful Albanian cleaning lady, Alessia Demachi.

Along the way, James typically leaves no cliché unturned ('I smelled a rat') nor puckered nipple uncovered, although devoted fans of E.L. James's previous oeuvre might be rather disappointed. For while there is lots of sex in Mister, there are no gags, whips and only one single inventive use of a silken scarf.

In this attempt to write a straightforward

romance, James' spanking new protagonist is no spanker. In fact, there are no elements of BDSM (that's bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism to those unfamiliar with her genre) at all.

Nor is there a Red Room of Pain, unless you count trying to crunch through the utterly deathly prose which is the author's trademark style, one which makes Dame Barbara Cartland seem like a literary genius. Let me give you a flavour of the horror.

The first time Max meets Alessia he 'notices that her jeans are overwashed and her eyes are large and dark, like a startled doe'.

Meanwhile, she is so shocked by his handsomeness that 'she clutches the handle of the broom to keep herself upright'.

'I am cleaner, Mister,' she says, while he thinks 'for a woman dressed in a nylon housecoat, she is hot'. Throughout the 30-odd chapters, the story switches from her perspective to his.

As Alessia gets out her Windolene to clean the mirrors and drag Henry the Hoover around his penthouse, she admires Max's 'vivid green eyes, eyes the colour of the still, deep waters of the Drin on a summer's day'.

Meanwhile, Maxim thinks she looks like 'an angel, possibly the Virgin Mary or a nun in blue'.

She is a secret piano prodigy and chess mistress and goes around crying 'Zot!' a lot. He has already written a song for her and goes around crying 'f**k a duck' a lot.

Is there much more of this to go? Oh God, only the 500 pages. Yet like Dame Agatha Christie, E.L. James is smart enough to give her readers what they want. With Christie it was a murder on the first page, plus a cavalcade of fruity suspects.

With James, she returns once more to the perennial allure of a rich and powerful man falling for a beautiful but poor woman.

For underneath the bondage of Fifty Shades lurked a very conventional romantic narrative.

ANASTASIA was a strong and self-contained young woman, but one who still had inner doubts about herself and her attractiveness. She became a vehicle for the insecurities of millions of women who secretly harbour fantasies of being swept away from their humdrum lives by passion — and a wealthy lover.

In The Mister, the author goes one step further, creating a marvellously preposterous aristocratic hero within her Cinderella in Downton Abbey storyline.

Max may be a millionaire, but he doesn't have a sexual kink like Christian Grey. Bizarrely, we discover early on that his favourite biscuit is a plain chocolate digestive. He plays piano and guitar, composes scraps of music that express the void within his soul. He's also a DJ and a photographer who is also in demand as a hot model. Of course he is.

Slender but curvaceous Alessia quickly becomes obsessed with his eyes, variously described as looking like the River Drin (see above), with 'irises a darker green around the edge like a fir, while towards the dilating pupil they are warmer, like a fern in spring'.

They are also like a forest in spring and malachite, gottit?

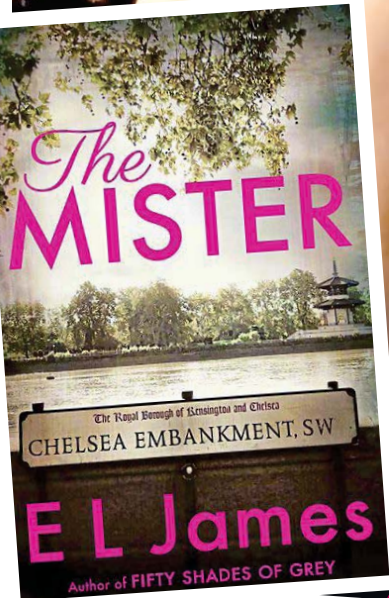
The Mister seethes with hints that the much mocked authoress wants to be taken seriously, as she plays with underlying themes of economic inequality and the plight of undocumented workers trafficked in from eastern Europe.

Fair enough, but the tone is terrible. When Alessia wakes screaming in the night because of sex-trafficked memories, Max tells her: 'The next time you scream, I'll be right there.' He then thinks to himself: 'Of course, I'd like to make her scream in a different way.'

What a creep.

The worst bit? To make up for the lack of kink, E.L. James seems to have decided to use food as a handy conduit for arousal and I really wish she hadn't. By the time we get to chapter 15 Maxim and Alessia are having feasts before they tumble into bed together. First of all it is fish

Bonkbuster hits:
Fifty Shades stars
Dakota Johnson
and Jamie Dornan



Latest chapter: E. L. James and her new book, The Mister

pie and beer in the pub, the following evening it is a pre-sex meal of beef and prune stew before some foreplay with the pudding afterwards.

Let me say one thing, I'll never eat banoffee pie again. Then it's pulled pork with a pomegranate jus and worst of all, an Albanian dish of rice and lamb with a baked yoghurt crust, ugh.

Purists and snobs — like me! — may mock James' writing style, but one can only admire her success.

Her initial erotic trilogy sold more than 150 million copies worldwide and was translated into over 50 languages. Even her most devoted

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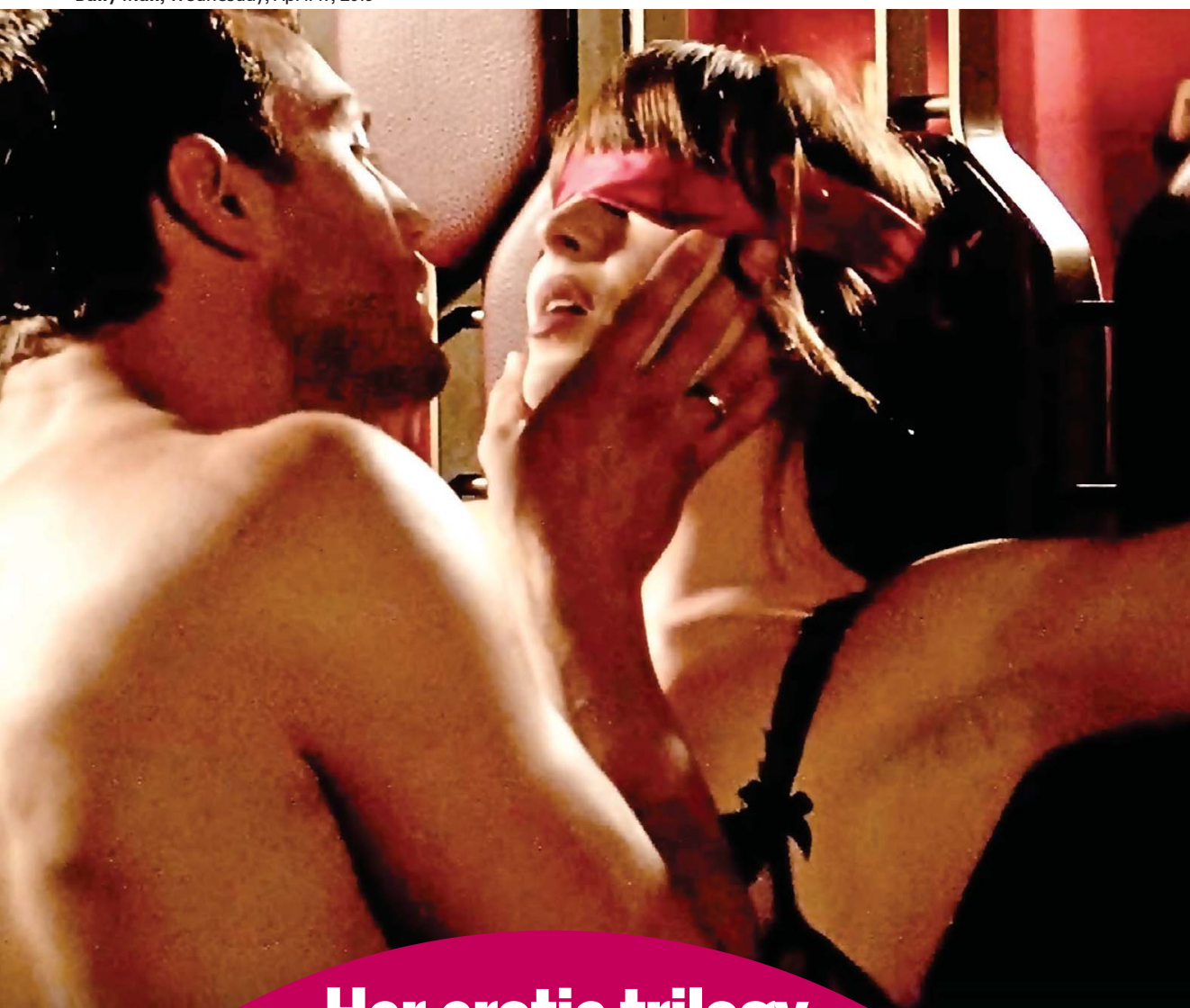
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Her erotic trilogy
sold 150 million — now
E.L. James is back. Lusting for her
latest racy romance? Brace yourself
for JAN MOIR's inimitable verdict

Spare me these 50 new shades OF Steamy cliché

YOUR QUICK ROMP THROUGH THE PLOT

Hi, I'M Maxim. My big brother died, did he commit suicide? Who knows, we never return to this theme again.
I inherit the title Lord Trevelyan, but I remain humble. 'Blake,' I tell my butler, 'just call me sir.' I like sex but there are rules. 'Not in front of the staff,' says mater. Hang on, who is that beauty polishing my piano? I can see her pink pants through her nasty nylon pinnie. What a babe. I write a song for her.
'Mister, I clean?' she says. In the kitchen, I notice she irons my shirts with sensuous grace and long easy strokes. Excuse me I must go and take a shower. (Hi, I am Alessia. What does he see in me? I am only his cleaner.)
Some bad guys try to kidnap her, I take her to Cornwall where she has never seen the sea. Her giggle is breathy, and it speaks directly to my groin. The shield from my family coat of arms perfectly mimics the Albanian flag — what are the chances?
She has nothing and I have everything. And if I take advantage of her, what would that make me? Never mind, I peel off her Spongebob Squarepants pyjama bottoms and an old Arsenal t-shirt someone gave her because she has no clothes of her own. She is a 24-year-old virgin, so I must be gentle. How can I explain this without sounding pervy? Slowly I let her adjust to my intrusion. Will that do?
(Hi Alessia here. How could I be so wanton? But Mister Maxim has woken a monster within me.) We make love a lot and gorge on ghastly meals. Bad men come. I beat them up.
We make love. Again. Back in London Alessia and I declare our love but she gets kidnapped by a man her father promised her hand to in marriage. Ye gods. I fly to her parents' house in Kukes, Albania, for a showdown. Hope nobody makes me eat that lamby rice thing again. Betrothed guy tries to shoot me, but love conquers all. Alessia says she is pregnant, but she is not really. We have sex together again. I wouldn't mind some kids, I tell her. She teases my lips with her tongue. Put down that duster, love, I tell her. You've pulled. I'm the only Mr Muscle you'll be spraying from now on. The end.

Pictures: LMK/GETTY

fans would probably admit the books were often clumsily written, teen-style fiction while the films that followed weren't much better, although they grossed more than \$1 billion globally.

In scenes filmed in full screen buttockorama, Dakota Johnson starred as Anastasia, while Jamie Dornan did his best as Christian Grey. Their lack of on-screen chemistry didn't help, but fans didn't seem to care, and flocked to the films anyway.

What began as an exercise in escapism on her long, dreary Underground commute into London nine years ago has transformed James, 56, into one of the richest and most influential authors in the world.

She's now said to be worth £114million — a fortune generated not just by the books and films but the Fifty Shades merchandise, ranging from lingerie and jewellery to whips and bottles of wine, which the author herself personally helped to design.

Not bad for a housewife, whose Northern Irish screenwriter husband Niall Leonard proofreads all her books and says he couldn't be further removed from his wife's fantasy creation. The couple have two grown-up sons, now 22 and 24, whom James also insists aren't

remotely embarrassed by their mother's torrid imagination.

Why would they be, one might wonder, when it has netted them a £2.7million home in Ealing, a £1.1million coastal home in Cornwall and a £5.5million home in LA.

Cars have also been an indulgence — James was the first person in the UK to buy a £60,000 red Tesla Model S electric sports car and also drives a blue 'Chelsea tractor' complete with a number plate ending 'SXY'.

BUT, despite the baubles of success, James remains down to earth, equally at home with her new life in LA as she is her old life in West London.

She continues to frequent her favourite pub in Ealing, where she goes to play Scrabble or simply for Sunday lunch with her family.

And while she has become a fan of regular manicures and pedicures, she still has her hair blow-dried in Acton, does her own supermarket shopping and walks her two Westies, Max and Mini.

She has also made vast donations to charity — according to her company records, in the region of £1.2million to date.

Now with the publication of *The Mister*, E.L. James is back doing what she loves most, writing torrents of boiling, erotic fiction in a world where eyes are always flashing, rolling, sparkling, flittering with lust or throbbing with passion.

Has she given up on Christian Grey for ever? Note that Trevelyan was Christian's middle name. So perhaps not.

Now Corbyn fails to sack MP who lied about Zionism slur

By **Daniel Martin**
Policy Editor

LABOUR'S anti-Semitism crisis plumbed new depths last night after Jeremy Corbyn refused to sack one of his biggest allies for launching an anti-Zionist tirade.

Richard Burgon, the shadow justice secretary, strenuously denied making the offensive comment that 'Zionism is an enemy of peace' after it was exposed by the Mail in 2016.

But yesterday he was forced to admit he had done so after video footage emerged of him saying those very words. Nevertheless, he failed to apologise – merely saying he 'regretted' using the phrase.

Jewish groups demanded he be removed from his shadow cabinet position and said it proved Labour's claims to be clamping down on anti-Semitism were a sham.

Zionism is the belief that Jews have the same right to a national homeland as other nations. The term is often used as an insult by those who deny that Israel has a right to exist.

Mr Burgon, who would become Lord Chancellor if Labour were to win power, is one of Mr Corbyn's key



Denials: Richard Burgon

allies. Yesterday, a 2014 video emerged of him telling an audience: 'The enemy of the Palestinian people is not the Jewish people. The enemy of the Palestinian people are Zionists and Zionism is the enemy of peace and the enemy of the Palestinian people.' However, when asked

WHAT ALLY CLAIMED ON BBC...

'I didn't make those comments ... I was asked when I was meant to have made those comments – no one could tell me... it's not my view.'

... AND WHAT HE SAID ON VIDEO

'The enemy of Palestinians is not the Jewish people. The enemy... are Zionists, and Zionism is the enemy of peace...'

**Storm as
Corbyn's
'great pals'
compare
Israel to IS
terrorists**

The Mail, August 8, 2016

about a Mail report in 2016 that he had used these words, Mr Burgon denied he had done so.

He told the BBC's Daily Politics show he 'didn't say that' and added: 'That's not my view.'

He said: 'I didn't make those comments... I was asked when I was meant to have made those comments – no one could tell me... it's not my view.' He added that he believed 'on occasions, like the governments of other countries, Israel has been an enemy of peace'.

Last night Euan Philipps, spokesman for Labour Against Anti-Semitism, called for Mr Burgon to be sacked over the 'damning' footage. He said 93 per cent of British Jews 'identify as Zionists' and that Mr Burgon's comments 'appear to be a clear incitement of hostility towards them'.

He added: 'We demand Jeremy Corbyn take immediate action and withdraw the whip from Mr

Burgon, while there should be no question of him remaining in the shadow cabinet... This is a serious matter and someone allegedly making these racially inflammatory comments should have no place in any mainstream political party. This needs to be dealt with and not just swept under the carpet.'

Mike Katz, of the Jewish Labour Movement, said: 'You can't play at being a Lord Chancellor-in-waiting whilst making dog whistle attacks on British Jews and their right, through Zionism, for national self-determination.' Last night Mr Burgon said: 'When it was put to me in August 2016 that I had made these remarks I did not recall doing so and therefore asked for the full quotes to be provided to me, and asked when and where I had said it.'

'I received no reply... It is now clear that I did and I regret

doing so.' He added that when he made the remarks in 2014 he failed to 'distinguish between those seeking a peaceful solution... and those, such as the current Israeli government, which is undermining efforts towards peace'.

He said: 'The simplistic language used does not reflect how I now think about this complex issue and I would not use it again today.'

In 2016 the Mail also reported that Sami Ramadan – described by Mr Corbyn as a 'great friend' – wrote online: 'IS are not the only brutal terrorists rampaging & killing people in the Middle East.'

■ Labour MP Margaret Hodge has been branded a 'disgraceful Zionist spy' by Corbyn supporters after leaking a recording of him admitting anti-Semitism cases had been 'ignored'.

Comment – Page 18

Councillor who dressed as Hitler for fundraiser

By **Liz Hull**

PHOTOGRAPHS of a Labour councillor dressed as Adolf Hitler at a fancy dress fundraiser have sparked an investigation by the party.

The pictures of Seve Gomez-Aspron, a member of St Helens Council, Merseyside, show him dressed in a German Army uniform with a swastika and wearing a fake moustache.

They were taken at a fancy dress fundraising dinner in aid of Claire House Hospice, which supports seriously and terminally ill children, in 2009 – around three years before he was elected. The Labour Party confirmed a formal inquiry has been launched.

Mr Gomez-Aspron, 33, who represents the Newton-le-Willows ward, admitted that his outfit – apparently inspired by Mel Brooks's satirical comedy film *The Producers* – was a 'clumsy decision'. He told the Liverpool Echo the photo was taken in his early twenties, before he was a Labour Party member or councillor. He



Offensive: Councillor Seve Gomez-Aspron at the party

added: 'I have matured and learnt a lot since then, and it goes without saying that I would not do this now. I know how this could be seen as

insensitive and how it could cause hurt and offence. That was not at all my intention and I sincerely apologise.

'I have part-Jewish ancestry and I recently visited Israel to commemorate those killed in the Holocaust and the war.'

Labour said it was unable to comment on individual cases due to confidentiality and data protection issues. It is not the first time Mr Gomez-Aspron has been the subject of controversy.

Earlier this month, Merseyside Police confirmed they had received a complaint about a tweet he posted referring to the 'Aryan race'. Officers concluded no offence had been committed. In December 2017, Mr Gomez-Aspron was also accused of being 'rude, arrogant and childish' to residents and insinuating they were 'half-wits' on Facebook.

He was hauled before the council's standards committee and censured after being found in breach of the local authority's code of conduct.

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By **Gerard Couzens**
and **Richard Marsden**

THE death of a British killer whale trainer is now being treated as possible murder with her boyfriend a suspect, it was revealed yesterday.

Amy Gerard's body was found in the sea off Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, on December 4.

The 28-year-old from Grimsby had been reported missing following a night out at a pub with her German boyfriend Dennis Kissling and other friends on November 30.

Spanish police have placed Mr Kissling under investigation and a court specialising in violence against women is handling the case.

Officials have lifted a secrecy order that had been imposed on the inquiry into the disappearance and death of Miss Gerard, who was working at Loro Parque – which means Parrot Park – on the outskirts of Puerto de la Cruz.

Yesterday, an official speaking on behalf of the investigating judge said: 'The court has confirmed that the investigation has detected

'Body had signs of violence'

indications of criminality with regards to the boyfriend, who has been summonsed to give evidence in the next few weeks as a person under official investigation over his possible involvement in the death of Amy.

'When the autopsy showed her body had signs of violence, the judge investigating the case at the time passed it over to the Court For Violence Against Women.'

The statement did not name Mr Kissling as the man under investigation, although he was widely described at the time as Miss Gerard's boyfriend. He was a colleague at Loro Parque and it was known

Boyfriend faces quiz over whale trainer found dead in the sea



Colleagues: Amy Gerard and her boyfriend Dennis Kissling

she was with him the night she disappeared after leaving Molly Malone pub in Puerto de la Cruz.

She was filmed looking happy and relaxed as she and Mr Kissling danced to Fairytale Of New York by The Pogues. The

pair were said to have been spotted going their separate ways after leaving the pub.

University graduate Miss Gerard was estranged from her husband Ryan Docherty, a personal trainer in the UK. Police were told she

was not a big drinker and had not looked inebriated when she left the pub.

Tenerife Police had appeared to rule out a crime, saying the 'apparent circumstances' leading to her death did not seem to have been the result of violence.

Details of the cause of Miss Gerard's death have still not been released. Yesterday her family did not wish to comment.

They are being helped by the Lucie Blackman Trust, a charity set up to help British nationals in crisis overseas.

Mr Kissling could not be reached for comment.

He was warned in December he would be questioned as an 'investigado' when he appears in court, which means he is under official investigation.

If it was felt after a full investigation that Mr Kissling should face trial, he would not be charged until further down the line in the legal process, officials said.

Policeman badly injured in ammonia spray attack

By **Liz Hull**

A POLICEMAN has been seriously injured after he and six other officers were sprayed with ammonia yesterday.

The sergeant is being treated for damage to his eyes, throat and respiratory system after the attack at a home in Darwen, Lancashire, which the officers had attended following reports of a domestic incident.

Six other officers were taken to Royal Blackburn Hospital after being doused with the cleaning fluid, but have since been discharged.

A 46-year-old man, who tried to escape through a first floor window following the attack at 2am on Tuesday, has been arrested and held on suspicion of wounding.

One neighbour said: 'The officer was stood on the doorstep and was... squirted directly in the mouth, face and eyes and was in a pretty bad way.'

Superintendent Andrea Barrow, of Lancashire Police, said: 'This shocking incident from the early hours of the morning has left an officer with some significant and serious injuries.'

'I wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to his return to work.'

Police inquiries are ongoing.

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After Chanel's bonkers 'saddle bags', the MY OTHER TWO MORE

Pictures: CORNEL CRISTIAN PETRUS/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK/LEZLI • ROSE



Glam: The Chanel side-pack

EVERYONE knows a woman's bag is much more than a convenient place to store 'stuff' when going from A to B.

It's body armour, a fashion statement, a comforter, your personal assistant and best friend, all in one.

But while over the past decade, one it bag was all anyone wanted, there's now a new way to show off: carrying multiple bags. It's no wonder Chanel has just brought out its new double bags, or 'side-packs'. Costing from £3,260 to £6,800, they are worn with one on each hip, like a horse's saddle bags.

It's a look Samantha Cameron has sported for years — she's often seen with a bevy of stylish bags on her arms.

Of course, there's practical reasoning behind this seemingly showy behaviour. These days, many of us busy women leave home early and get back late, so we need to take everything we need for the day with us.

Rather than carrying one backbreaking tote, it makes sense to arrange things into various bags, taking you from the gym, to the office, to post-work drinks and dinner.

It also keeps us in balance, as most of us favour one side — which can lead to curvature of the spine or a muscle imbalance along the neck and shoulders.

But, armed with multiple bags, just what do you keep in them? **ALICE SMELLIE** spoke to four women who wouldn't dream of carrying fewer than three bags, and got them to spill all...

It's my £1.5k filing system

NIAMH BARKER, 53, a mother of six and CEO of The Travelwrap Company, is married to Andy Barker, 55, a consultant psychiatrist. They live in the New Forest.

THE night before a meeting, I divide all I need into little bags then spread them between three or four larger ones. It's like preparing for open-heart surgery — thinking the steps through. My bags are my filing system, as I travel the world. Fully loaded, they weigh nearly 5kg, but I'm used to it now.

Bag one is a £100 Orla Kiely laptop bag for my computer, iPad and notebook.

My 'important' bag is for items that mean a lot to me (and are necessary).

This includes my Diane von Furstenberg keyring, my wallet phone, a tube of my favourite Kit Kemp handcream, and my Anya Hindmarch cardholder, given to me by the designer herself. The bag is a Tory Burch, a Diane von Furstenberg, or a blue Coach shoulder bag.

A third bag may hold a cashmere wrap or cardigan in case it gets cold, and an umbrella. Sometimes there's a fourth bag, into which I decant items before checking the others into a cloakroom. This allows me to look like I'm carrying only the basics.

It's a way of taking a piece of home wherever I go, so I feel settled. On trains, I swathe myself in my cashmere. It smells of my house.

As I shop on eBay or at discounted designer outlets, the bags likely only cost about £1,500 in total. I don't mind if they are last season. My husband laughs at me. But what was once my dirty little secret is now high fashion.

A stuffed bag is so unstylish!

MEG RANDELL, 29, is head of fashion at Chiswick Auctions and lives in Hammersmith, West London, with her boyfriend, an art expert.

I SPEND a lot of my time sourcing and authenticating vintage designer items for auction. On the whole, this is all London-based, with the odd foray into the home counties. Nonetheless, I carry three bags for the quick Tube ride into work every morning.

There's my lovely Gucci bamboo backpack, where I keep the basics: iPhone, Kindle and keys. Next is my green Louis Vuitton handbag for items I may need, such as a cardigan, scarf, inhaler, hair brush and gloves.

Finally, I always take either my beloved Chanel shopping tote or a Louis Vuitton clutch. I often attend evening events and don't want to go with a rucksack — even if it is Gucci.

If I go to the theatre or a drinks party, I can check my basics into the cloakroom, and carry my lipstick and iPhone in my clutch.

In total, the bags probably cost £1,000 and weigh about 3kg when full. They are my most treasured possessions — I have about six designer ones.

They may be expensive, but they were all second-hand. They will keep their value, so if I want to sell any of them I will get my money back and, in some cases, I will even make a profit.

I may wear jeans and shirts a great deal, but I carry Chanel and Gucci on one shoulder, and Louis Vuitton on the other, showing I can be comfortable and glamorous at the same time. The three-handbag trend is great — there's nothing less stylish than an overflowing bag.



**... AND
HERE'S
WHAT
THEY'RE
CARTING
AROUND**



Weather-ready: A wrap, sunglasses and a brolly, just in case



Jam-packed: Trainers, hand cream, a banana, a fan and a diary

women with so much clobber they've gone even further HANDBAG IS... HANDBAGS!

They cost £5,500 ... and weigh 5kg

NATASHA BARTLETT-TWIVEY, 42, is married to Jonathan, 47, a businessman. They live in Buckinghamshire with their daughters, aged four and two. She owns luxury fake flower florists Ferris Heart Sloane.

NOBODY would ever know that my daily £5,500 worth of handbags contain things such as pliers and twine for my job as a fake flower florist.

Typically, I carry a Lucy Houle holdall to put my Chanel or Bottega Veneta handbag in — mainly to protect the leather so that it always looks absolutely immaculate.

Then I have a Ralph Lauren backpack to pop my laptop and smart shoes in because they are lumpy and heavy. I live in a village outside London, so I transform my look when I arrive at work.

With two little girls, I frequently feel frazzled when I leave home.

But knowing that I have my bags, and the tools for every situation, makes me feel in control —

despite having a 5kg-plus weight hanging off my frame.

In a way, my bags are like security blankets.

I've had my large canvas Anya Hindmarch for ten years, but it looks almost as new as my Chanel, which my husband bought for me last Christmas, or my Harriet Sanders, which was a birthday present this year.

I also have a large navy bag and a burgundy leather laptop bag, from new brand Alder, created by a friend of mine.

As well as my four bags, I carry a little case with mascara and face cream, my Anya Hindmarch organiser and purse, and something to add some extra flair to my outfit, such as a scarf by Missoni. I wear a lot of black, so this adds a lovely splash of colour.



Four bags saved me in a blizzard

DESIGNER Samantha Fuery, 44, is married, has two children, Poppy, 15, and Freddy, 12, and lives in Somerset.

WHEREVER I'm working, whether it's in the UK or further afield, I know I have all I could possibly need in my handbags.

People may laugh, but last year this went in my favour when I found myself trapped in a snowstorm in Yorkshire overnight, unable to get back to Somerset.

I had four bags containing everything I might need for at least 24 hours: a warm wrap, my laptop, a Neal's Yard Beauty Balm, Jo Malone perfume, snacks and masses of magazines. I was quite happy to hunker down in a station waiting room and wait until the tracks were cleared.

If I'm working, I carry a big tote containing my scarf, toothbrush and laptop; a cross-body bag with my wallet and phone; a clutch in case I have an evening do — into which I'll put a lipstick, comb and compact mirror — and a little shoulder bag in the tote which contains my make-up and perfume.

I like to get up, put everything I need during the day into bags and leave. I can't pop home at lunch if I've forgotten something. No matter what the situation, I have everything to hand.

I use bags from my own company, Heat & Fury, and usually carry around £550 worth, weighing around 4.5kg.

The trend for multiple handbags is now so ubiquitous that I've designed a three-in-one version for the American market. Most women find that one bag isn't enough.

My husband travels a lot for work and we all go with him. We've lived in 17 houses in the past 18 years, so I am quite used to scooping up everything I need and decanting it into a few bags.

As well as the practical element, I also think we express ourselves through our accessories. They can be as flamboyant and colourful as you like, no matter how work-appropriate or low-key your clothes.



Tools of the trade: Pliers, twine, a measuring tape and two pairs of shoes



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Walk on the wild side... thrill-seeker risks his life just for a seaside selfie



By Izzy Ferris

ARMS spread wide as he struggles for balance, a sightseer edges his way back to safety after scrambling along the 100ft archway rock at Durdle Door in Dorset.

Moments earlier, the man was pictured casually perched at the end of the rock. He even had time for a cigarette and selfie before heading back, unaware that he had sparked a coastguard emergency.

The unnamed 28-year-old is one of several thrill-seekers who were yesterday warned by coastguards not to risk their lives by climbing coastal landmarks.

Local coastal warden Dan Snozwell said: 'He didn't look like a steady climber - he was just in trainers and jeans. I could see him taking selfies and smoking a cigarette.'

Another visitor was photographed standing close to the rocky edge of 200ft Stair Hole, about a mile from Durdle Door.

Beware 75F 'pollen bomb' at Easter

By Richard Marsden

THE mini heatwave forecast for the Easter weekend could come with a sting in the tail in the form of a 'pollen bomb'.

The sudden arrival of warm weather could see trees such as oak, birch, ash and plane release their pollen all at once.

Asthma UK is warning the country's 3.3million sufferers to take extra precautions ahead of the public holiday.

From today, fine and settled conditions are forecast across much of Britain as an area of high pressure brings warm air up from the Mediterranean.

Temperatures will build up and could reach a high of 75F (24C) in southern England and Wales by Saturday - and 70F (21C) being reached further north.

But it means high levels of pollen are predicted across the country. To make matters worse, air pollution such as particulates from diesel engines is also expected to rise, before easterly winds disperse it by the end of the weekend.

Asthma UK's Sonia Munde said: 'A deadly pollen bomb is due

'Potentially life-threatening'

to hit this week, putting people with asthma at risk of a potentially life-threatening attack. Trees have been releasing their pollen for several weeks, but the warm spring weather is going to make pollen levels spike.

'If you're already getting symptoms, it's not too late to help yourself stay well. Everyone with asthma should keep their blue reliever inhaler with them at all times in case of an emergency.'

The warning was echoed by Public Health England. Spokesman Karen Exley said: 'While most people will not be affected by short-term peaks in ambient air pollution, some individuals, such as those with existing heart or lung conditions, may experience increased symptoms.'

'On occasions where levels are high, adults and children with lung problems, and adults with heart problems, should reduce strenuous physical exertion, particularly outdoors, particularly if they experience symptoms.'

New bacon cancer risk

Daily Mail Reporter

EVEN moderate amounts of ham, bacon and red meat are linked to bowel cancer, experts warn today.

Adults who stick to NHS guidelines of 70g red and processed meat a day still increase their risk of bowel cancer by a fifth compared with those who eat 21g a day, they said.

For red meat only, the risk was 15 per cent higher for those who ate 54g per day (about one thick slice of roast beef or one lamb chop) on average compared with those who had 8g per day, scientists found. Their research, part-funded by Cancer Research UK,

Now average of just ONE rasher a day raises danger of bowel disease by 19%

also said that for processed meat only, the risk was 19 per cent higher for those who had an average of 29g per day (about one rasher of bacon or a slice of ham) compared with those who had an average of 5g per day.

The study, published in the International Journal of Epidemiology, examined data from 475,581 people aged 40 to 69 and followed them for an average of 5.7 years.

During this time, 2,609 people developed bowel cancer.

There was some good news however - those with a high intake of fibre from bread and breakfast cereals lowered their risk of bowel cancer by 14 per cent.

Around one in every 15 men and one in every 18 women will develop bowel cancer during their lifetime. Existing evidence points to an increased bowel cancer risk for

every 50g of processed meat a person eats per day, but the new study found that risk increases at just 25g per day.

Professor Tim Key of Cancer Research UK, who co-authored the study, said: 'Our results strongly suggest that people who eat red and processed meat four or more times a week have a higher risk of developing bowel cancer than those who eat red and

processed meat less than twice a week.'

Dr Julie Sharp, Cancer Research UK's head of health information, said: 'This doesn't necessarily mean cutting out red and processed meat entirely, but you may want to think about simple ways to reduce how much you have ...

'You could try doing meat-free Mondays, looking for recipes using fresh chicken and fish, or swapping meat for pulses like beans and lentils in your usual meals.'

The Department of Health guidelines say that while meat is a good source of protein, vitamins and minerals, people should cut their intake of red and processed meat to about 70g per day, which is the average daily consumption in the UK.

The last laugh? Women fill shortlist for comic writing

By **Jennifer Ruby** Senior Showbusiness Correspondent

IT IS a literary award that only three women have ever won, sparking accusations of sexism from a top author.

But now the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction has produced a female-dominated shortlist, with only two men among six contenders.

Bestselling writer Marian Keyes questioned last year why she had not been shortlisted for the prize.

'Say what you like about me, my books are funny, they are comic. What else do I have to do to qualify?' she complained.

The Wodehouse Prize was not awarded at all in 2018 because none of the books put forward prompted 'unanimous, abun-



Complaint: Marian Keyes

dant laughter' from the judges. Now it has returned, and Nina Stibbe has made the shortlist for the third time with her book Reasons to be Cheerful.

Lissa Evans also returns for a third time with her eighth novel, Old Baggage. They will go up

against Kate Davies's first novel for adults, In at the Deep End, and US writer Jen Beagin's Vacuum in the Dark. The two men are Booker Prize winner Roddy Doyle, for Charlie Savage, and New Zealander Paul Ewen, with Plug: Writer in Residence.

Famous authors are being told to write their new novels under pseudonyms because of an 'obsession' with debut writers, Joanne Harris has claimed.

Harris, 54, best known for her novel Chocolat, said the publishing industry wanted to sign new authors because they were more likely to win the big literary prizes. She tweeted: 'Increasing numbers of experienced authors (most of them women) are being advised to write under a different name, so their publisher can present them as debut authors.'



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258g



273g



258g



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262g



249g



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Get set

Sharpen your pencils for the launch of our new daily Puzzles & Prizes pullout on Saturday. Here, Countdown queen Carol Vorderman shows how to crack another of our great new games

THE Mail is launching its bigger, brighter Puzzles & Prizes pullout this Saturday, with £3,000 to be won every week.

And to celebrate, each day this week we are putting one of the new number puzzles under the spotlight.

Today, Britain's best-known

puzzle addict Carol Vorderman is here to share her tips on how to unlock the secrets to solving Futoshiki, a fascinating test of your logic.

You can find yet more games in the interactive version of the paper, Mail Plus, available for tablets and smartphones at www.mailsubscriptions.co.uk — visit the website to find out more.

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for Futoshiki fever!

CAROL'S CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE TO FUTOSHIKI

THE RULES OF FUTOSHIKI

FILL the 25 cells with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Each number can appear only once in each horizontal row and vertical column.

JARGON BUSTER

SOME cells have an arrow-like symbol beside them.

This indicates whether a number is 'greater than' (>) or 'less than' (<) the number in the adjacent cell.

These V-shaped signs are mathematical symbols: 4 is bigger than 3 so '4 > 3'. And 1 is smaller than 5 so '1 < 5'. Some people call them chevrons or angle brackets but I simply call them greater than (>) and less than (<). In Futoshiki, they can point up and down, too.

STEP 1

		>		
				^
		1		
		>	>	2
	^	4	2/3	> 1
		5	> 3/4	

WE'VE given you the highlighted numbers as a starting point. First big clue: there are two chains of four cells linked by 'greater than' symbols. Take the lower one: the first cell has to be a 5 (because there's already a 4 in that column). And the last cell has to be a 1 (because there's already a 2 in that column). The others are either a 4 or a 3, and a 3 or a 2. If you can follow this reasoning, you'll understand Futoshiki.

STEP 2

		> 2		
		1		^
5	4	> 3	> 1	2
	^	5	4	2/3
		5	> 3/4	

LOOK at the middle column. We've got 1, 4 and 5. That leaves 2 and 3. The centre cell can't be a 2 (because there's already a 2 in that row). So, 2 at the top, 3 in the middle. The 3 is 'greater than' the cell to its right, which must be a 1. That leaves us with a 5 and a 4 to place in the middle row. The cell to the left of the 3 is not the biggest in the chain, so that must be the 4. Now you can fill in a 5 in not one but two cells.

STEP 3

	3	> 2		
	2	1		^
5	4	> 3	> 1	2
3	^	5	4	2
2	1	5	> 3/4	

CHECK OUT the 2 at the top. The number next to it is 'greater than' 2 — but it can't be a 4 or a 5 (because they already appear in that column). So it must be a 3... leaving space for a 2 below it, with the 1 at the bottom. And since we have a 2 in the right-hand column, there must be a 2 bottom-left. The cell above that now has to be a 3, confirming the fourth cell along that row as a 2.

STEP 4

1	3	> 2	5	4
4	2	1	3	^ 5
5	4	> 3	> 1	2
3	^	5	4	2
2	1	5	> 4	3

NEARLY there now. In the first column, the 1 can only go in the top-left cell, with the 4 below it. The top-right cell can't be a 5 (look at the 'greater than' symbol) so it must be a 4. The 5 goes below it, another 5 next to the 4 in the top row, and a 3 goes bottom right. All you have to do now is fill in the final 3 and 4 in the fourth column.

AND HERE'S TWO TO GET YOU HOOKED

ANSWERS
ON PAGE 35

^			^	
			<	
	>		>	
^				
				3

				>
	^		^	
	>			<
2		>		
	>	<	<	<

CAROL'S TIPS

THERE are no zeroes in Futoshiki. So where you see a 'greater than' sign (>), you know that cell can't contain a 1... because 1 isn't greater than anything. Similarly, a cell with a 'less than' sign (<) can't contain a 5, because 5 is the highest number in the grid. If you're muddling up the two signs, think of the 'greater than' symbol as the open mouth of a hungry crocodile. It wants to eat more, so jaws apart means larger... whichever way it is facing. Look out for chains of these symbols. Cells connected by (>) contain a string of numbers that get progressively smaller — but not necessarily in a simple sequence, so they might be 5, 3, 2, 1 missing a 4.



TOMORROW: HOW TO TACKLE TRAIN TRACKS
ON SATURDAY: OUR NEW PUZZLES & PRIZES PULL-OUT

Suicide girl, 12, 'overwhelmed' by social media

A GIRL of 12 who wrote RIP on her heel before killing herself was emotionally overwhelmed by social media and did not have the 'skills to cope', a coroner said.

An inquest heard that on the night she died, Jessica Scatterson – who claimed she was bullied online – had posted a picture of her foot and a list of reasons why she should kill herself. Friends

By **Liz Hull**

alerted police, and when officers raced to her home and woke her father, he discovered she had hanged herself in her bedroom surrounded by cuddly toys.

A suicide note included the name of Jessica's alleged bullies while abusive messages were later discovered on her iPad.

Alan Moore, senior coroner for Cheshire, said he agreed with comments by Wendy



'Couldn't cope': Jessica Scatterson

Walsh, an emotional wellbeing co-ordinator at Penketh High School in Warrington, where Jessica was a pupil, who gave evidence about the youngster's social media use. He said: 'She said, "The pressures young people are under are extraordinary. Young people don't have the skills to cope with such overwhelming emotions" – those were her words and I echo that.'

Delivering a verdict of suicide, Mr Moore added: 'It is clear to me that Jessica must have felt emotionally overwhelmed at the time she took her own life.'

'The level and the intensity of her activity on social media platforms, particularly in the build-up to her death, cannot have failed to have influenced her thinking, her state of mind and her intentions.'

Jessica's father Christopher, 41, spoke to police from an upstairs window when he was woken at home on April 22, 2017 before officers heard a 'loud scream' from inside.

Sergeant Ross Dryden, of Cheshire police, told the hearing he tried to resuscitate Jessica, who would have turned 13 two days later, until paramedics arrived. She was pronounced dead a short time later.

Police launched an investiga-

'A child taking too much on'

tion and discovered an incident 'relating to Jessica being bullied at school' in 2016, which left her with a scratched face and a swollen eye. But it was unclear who had started the fight so no action was taken. Staff admitted there had been some name-calling and fall-outs with friends, but denied it amounted to bullying.

The court heard Jessica had spoken to teachers about her difficult home life. Learning mentor Sarah Baron revealed Jessica had been worried about her father, because he would 'sometimes come home from work, go to his room and cry'. She said: 'Jessica just seemed like a child who was taking too much on.'

■ For confidential support, call the Samaritans on 116123 or go to samaritans.org.

Drive to ban new diesel HGVs by 2040

ALL new diesel and petrol lorries should be banned from sale by 2040 to cut air pollution, the Government's infrastructure body has said.

HGVs need to switch from using fossil fuels to battery or hydrogen power over the next 20 years in a 'bold' push to make the UK's road and rail-based industry carbon-free, the National Infrastructure Commission said.

Without action, freight could churn out a fifth of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, up from 9 per cent now. The Road Haulage Association said any new technology must be cost-effective.

April 17, 2019

ON THIS DAY

FROM THE DAILY MAIL ARCHIVE

APRIL 17, 1912

THE first flight across the English Channel by a lady alone, piloting an aeroplane, was made yesterday by Miss Harriet Quimby, an American airwoman. She took off from Dover and landed at Hardelot, near Boulogne. She stated that her trip was splendid in spite of fog.

APRIL 17, 1964

THE Great Train Robbery gang was spilt up last night – to serve terms totalling 307 years. Immediately after the sentences were passed, the 12 men in the dock were paired off. Each pair was carefully chosen to keep the most dangerous thugs apart.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

VICTORIA BECKHAM, 45. The pop star-turned-fashion designer (right) was the only Spice Girl not to audition for the group with a pop song, choosing Mein Herr from the musical Cabaret. She's also the only member not on a reunion tour next month. A qualified dance teacher before becoming famous, she said: 'If it does go wrong, I can always be a tap-dancing teacher.'



JOHN MCCRIRICK, 79. The racing pundit calls his long-suffering wife 'The Booby', because he says she is like the South American bird: 'She's stupid, squawks a lot and was easy to catch.' After he was dropped by Channel 4, he sued the channel for ageism, claiming £3 million damages, but lost and had to pay £100,000 in legal fees, with the tribunal concluding his 'self-described bigoted and male chauvinist views were clearly unpalatable to a wider potential audience'.

BORN ON THIS DAY

J.P. MORGAN (1837-1913). Remembered as America's 'greatest banker', he helped to transform business, creating General Electric from an 1889 merger, moved into the first home in the U.S. lit by electricity and even, unsuccessfully, bidding to build a new London Tube line. His fortune upon death was estimated at \$118 million (\$3 billion, or £2.3 billion in today's money).

VICTOR LOWNES (1928-2017). The U.S. impresario (right) was once Britain's highest-paid executive, as manager of Hugh Hefner's Playboy empire in Europe. Dubbed Victor Disgusting by Private Eye magazine, he boasted of living with six women at a time. At 14, he accidentally shot dead a school friend during a hunting trip.



ON APRIL 17...

IN 1961, the doomed Bay of Pigs invasion was launched when 1,500 Cuban exiles trained by the CIA attempted to overthrow Fidel Castro's regime.

IN 2011, the first episode of TV fantasy epic Game Of Thrones was aired. The final series began on Monday.

WORD WIZARDRY

GUESS THE DEFINITION: **Tracklement (1954)**
A) A pole slung across a stream to stop cattle passing.
B) The payment of arrears.
C) A savoury condiment served with meat.

Answer below.

PHRASE EXPLAINED

To a T: Meaning exactly, precisely or to perfection; it is likely to involve T being the first letter of tittle, meaning some very small amount, as 'to a tittle' was in use in exactly the same sense for nearly a century before.

QUOTE FOR TODAY

‘YOU can't have everything. Where would you put it?’

Steven Wright, U.S. comedian

JOKE OF THE DAY

HOW does a mouse feel after a bath?
Squeaky clean.

Guess The Definition answer: C.

Compiled by ETAN SMALLMAN and ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD

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Home dream ends in court nightmare

Couple lose £1m fight for damages over 'grand design'

Daily Mail Reporter

A COUPLE who blamed a husband-and-wife team when their grand design dream home turned into a £5million 'disaster' have lost their High Court fight for damages.

Millionaire businessman Stuart Russell and his textile designer wife Naomi claimed they aimed to spend £2million building a bespoke, curved, high-end house with 'a wow factor in every space'.

The couple hoped their four-bedroom property in Highgate, north London, would be finished in less than a year.

In the end it took them ten years and cost £5million.

Disputes involving contractors brought 'disarray and disaster' to their scheme, they claimed.

After the house was finished, they sued husband-and-wife project manager and quantity surveyor team, Peter and Linda Stone, who advised them on the build from 2008 to 2012.

They claimed the Stones' failures and lack of foresight 'caused them to spend significantly more on their property' than intended. But Mrs Justice Jefford threw out their claim for nearly £1million compensation.

The Stones, from Kensington,

'This is not some Barratt home'

west London, worked on the project until 2012, after the builders had walked out.

Mr and Mrs Russell claimed the Stones were responsible for many problems because they had made representations in a pre-contract letter that they 'could manage everything'.

But the judge found that, while the Stones had been 'selling themselves' before the Russells agreed to use them, they were not contracted 'on a basis that would make them liable for anything that went wrong'.

The Russells also said that, had they been advised by the Stones how much their dream



Top: The grand design new house Left: The Russells at court Above: The demolished home

home was going to cost realistically, they would have 'cut their cloth accordingly'.

But the judge dismissed that claim, saying it was 'wishful thinking with the benefit of hindsight' to claim they would have paused and revised their plans to be less ambitious.

At trial, Mr Stone, 61, and his wife, 62, insisted the Russells wasted money and caused delays by dithering and agonising too much over interior

details, such as door handles, and toilet roll holders.

But in the witness box Mr Russell, 63, said the time he and his wife took reaching decisions on the interiors of the four-bedroom house was justified by the unique and 'complex' nature of the home.

He told Mrs Justice Jefford: 'This is not some Barratt home.' But the judge found that the argument over the householders' meticulous design decisions

was 'largely a non-issue'. She also dismissed the Stones' counterclaim against the Russells for £20,000 in 'unpaid fees'.

The Russells bought the original house on the site for £3.65million in 2006, demolishing it four years later.

Estate agents estimate the new property is now worth about £8million.

A hearing to deal with the legal costs of the case will take place at a later date.



Women hang on to £500 of old clothes

HOPES of a date at a fancy restaurant or an invitation to a posh wedding... most women have a range of excuses to keep old clothes in the wardrobe.

And research has put a value on them - with British women reckoned to have up to £500 worth of unused clothes and out-fits gathering dust.

They are holding on to 13 items of so-called 'fashion skeleton' clothes worth an average of £36 each, it reveals.

The actress Jennifer Aniston quipped that 'my girlfriends go shopping in my wardrobe' and the problem also seems to be that old clothes remind many of a specific person, place or experience.

It means £13billion in unwanted clothing is being kept across the country, with 17 per cent of women holding on to unworn clothes for 'sentimental reasons'.

Another 18 per cent hold on to items which no longer fit in the hope they will be able to squeeze back into them.

Eric Gagnaire, of 'preloved' clothing website Patatam, which commissioned the research, said: 'It's amazing to see just how much money British women have sat in their wardrobes, in the form of clothing which they no longer want.'

Of those polled, 92 per cent of women said they would prefer to sell such clothes, rather than simply throwing them away.

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Another one likes the bust: May unveils Freddie tribute

QUEEN guitarist Brian May has unveiled a striking new bust of Freddie Mercury created by Tom Mackenzie.

The sculpture of the singer, who died in 1991, captures his famous overbite. At least it does convince May.

'Freddie lives', he wrote alongside this snap on social media.

The artwork was created using a mixture of 3-D digital modelling and traditional sculpting skills and will have pride of place at the Queen Studio Experience exhibition in Switzerland.



diary@dailymail.co.uk
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■ **PRINCESS** Diana's friend ballet dancer Wayne Sleep has implored the writers of *The Crown* to honour her love of dancing in the fourth series. 'Her character should dance because Diana loved to dance,' Wayne, 70, tells me. 'The first thing she'd do when she came round to mine was kick off her heels and walk around with bare feet and learn a couple of jazz moves from me. I'd be happy to train the actress [Emma Corrin] playing Diana. The show is a quality programme, it has a great reputation and I'm up for anything that has artistic integrity.'

Owzat! Mollie is bowled over (again) by her sports star love

PRINCE Harry's one-time flame, pop star Mollie King, is enjoying better luck in love at last.

The former *Strictly* contestant, 31, had a spring in her step when she strolled hand-in-hand with England cricketer Stuart Broad, 32, in Notting Hill yesterday.

The couple, who were accompanied by her poodle, Alfie, are back together after splitting last August following a five-month relationship, which a friend claimed at the time had 'fizzled out'.

Mollie, who is a petite 5ft 3in, and her 6ft 4in boyfriend were hard to miss as they ambled through the neighbourhood. The Saturdays singer, who sported a beige trench coat, skinny jeans and an olive green top, revealed in 2012 that she'd been on a date with Harry, but he was 'out of her league'.

Happily, it didn't deter her from future passionate pursuits. 'I love being in love,' she said. 'I literally love being in love. I'm so romantic.'



How Archbishop and Joanna Lumley helped Rev duck a fine

THE combined charms of Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Ab Fab star Joanna Lumley helped BBC radio presenter the Reverend Richard Coles avoid a fine when caught with the wrong ticket on a railway journey.

'I was on the platform at Canterbury Railway Station with the Archbishop of Canterbury after a do,' Coles tells me. 'And there on the platform was Joanna Lumley and her husband. A very congenial journey followed, but when we got

to St Pancras I discovered I'd lost my return ticket.'

The Communards musician-turned-Anglican priest continues: 'There was a very surly man on the barrier and I said: "Oh, I'm sorry, I've lost my ticket," in my best vicar voice. But no, nothing, he just blocked me and was very unhelpful. Then I said: "But my friends can vouch for me."

'He looked up to see the Archbishop and Joanna Lumley, and suddenly it was: Open Sesame.'

The 'curse' of engulfs staid

DISSOLUTE musician Pete Doherty, ex-fiancee of Kate Moss, continues to provoke strong passions.

The BBC has been lambasted for rejecting a bereaved mother's plea to remove him from a Radio 4 programme.

Sheila Blanco, whose son Mark died in suspicious circumstances at a party attended by Doherty in 2006, wrote to the producer of *Loose Ends* saying it would be 'ethically wrong' to give Doherty a platform to promote his new album unless he

was asked about his actions surrounding the death. Her plea fell on deaf ears and Doherty appeared on the show last Saturday.

In reply, the programme's producer, Sukey Firth, told her: 'We understand how distressing the events around the death of Mark Blanco must be to all those who knew and loved him.'

'However, no charges have ever been brought against Peter Doherty in connection with the events and, as such, we do not consider it inappropriate for him to appear on *Loose Ends* as a musical performer, after a successful previous performance a few years ago, and to share

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ESPIRE



Saturdays singer: Mollie at TV Awards

■ **ACTOR Tom Hughes**, who plays Prince Albert in the TV drama *Victoria*, says there is one aspect of the role he will miss once he has to hang up his breeches — the costumes. 'When the time comes to stop playing him, it would not be a joy, but neither would it be heartbreaking, because I've always known his story is finite. I will miss wearing his tailor-made clothes, though. They are the most comfortable clothes in the world. High-waisted trousers have got to come back into fashion.' Maybe he should play *Simon Cowell* next...



Graham bags £18k 'bargain' on a date with his Beau...

CHIRPY chat-show host Graham Norton splashed out when he attended the Terrence Higgins Trust auction at Christie's in Mayfair this week.

The 56-year-old, who arrived with dapper on-off boyfriend, Hunt Beauchamp (pictured), successfully bid for potter Grayson Perry's Brexit-themed skull entitled 'Restituted British Head'.

Graham was chuffed to get himself a bargain, paying £18,000 — £7,000 less than the guide price. 'If I drink enough, I'm bidding,' he told me before making the purchase.

'I've supported the Terrence Higgins Trust for years. It's a good charity and, sadly, its purpose hasn't gone away.'

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Pete Doherty Radio 4 show

new work.' Mark Blanco, 30, was found dying in a street in East London. He passed away in hospital the next day from serious head injuries.

After spending more than £100,000 on a private investigation, Mrs Blanco said CCTV footage suggested foul play, with someone deliberately dropping Mark's body off the first-floor balcony of the block of flats where the party was held.

Apart from Blanco, there were six other people present including Doherty. Despite two police investigations, no one has been charged. A coroner's inquest recorded an open verdict.

Mrs Blanco tells me: 'It is despicable

that the BBC choose to promote an individual who has shown a reprehensible lack of humanity with regard to a man's murder.

'What is certain is that he was there that night in December 2006 and knows what happened. The BBC's decision is particularly ironic because the host of *Loose Ends*, Clive Anderson, is a criminal barrister.

'In a further irony, another BBC programme, *Newsnight*, investigated Mark's death in 2012 and uncovered important new evidence pointing to foul play.

'The BBC is ignoring its own journalism.'

The BBC declined to comment.

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By **Amelia Murray**

IN A MILESTONE victory for Money Mail, a major High Street bank has become the first to pledge to reunite innocent fraud victims with their money.

We have long campaigned for banks to compensate people when they are tricked into handing over their savings, and have been ignored — until now.

For TSB this week said cheated customers will always get their cash back — piling pressure on other banks to do the same.

Writing in Money Mail today, TSB executive chairman Richard Meddings admits: 'Fraud refund policies just haven't kept pace with the scammers. You don't have to be frail or foolish to fall victim.'

Scammers dupe us out of about £1 million a day — often by convincing victims they are bank employees, telling them their savings are in danger and must be moved.

In all, £354 million was stolen last year in these scams, known as authorised push-payment frauds. But until now, banks had refused to pay compensation, claiming the victims should have been more careful.

TSB will now only refuse to pay up if someone repeatedly ignores safety advice and is defrauded again and again.

Other major lenders, have signed up to a voluntary code which will require them to refund scam victims from May 28.

Yet funding for cases where neither the bank nor customer is to blame is only guaranteed until the end of the year.

Richard Emery, fraud expert at consultancy 4Keys International, says: 'I am delighted a bank is taking the reimbursement of scam victims seriously. I trust other banks will follow suit. TSB has come forward in advance of the official reimbursement model which other banks could have done. Customers of other banks who fall victim to scams between now and May 28 would have a very good reason to be unhappy if they are not refunded.'

But what does the landmark move mean for you?

What are TSB's terms?

TSB pledges to reimburse all customers who innocently fall victim to scams, with two exceptions. Those who commit the fraud themselves will not be refunded.

Neither will customers who are repeatedly tricked after getting advice from the bank about how to stay safe. This does not apply to vulnerable customers and TSB says the rule is flexible.

For example, it may refuse to refund customers who fall for the same type of scam twice unless they are targeted in different ways.

Do all victims qualify?

TSB's fraud refund guarantee is not retrospective — those who fell victim to scams before April 14 will not be covered.

What does the banks' U-turn on SCAM REFUNDS really mean for YOU?

Daily Mail
STOP THE BANK SCAMMERS

Victory over bank scammers as TSB to refund all victims

Will other banks help?

CUSTOMERS of other banks currently have no right to a refund if tricked by a fraudster. Banks typically refuse in these instances on the grounds they authorised the payment or were negligent

with their banking details — even if they had no idea they were speaking to criminals.

Banks recorded 84,624 cases of authorised push-payment fraud last year, almost double the

From yesterday's Daily Mail number reported in 2017, according to banking trade body UK Finance.

In total, victims lost £354.3 million, a 50pc rise on 2017. However, RBS, Barclays,

Santander, Lloyds Banking Group (which includes Halifax and Bank of Scotland), Nationwide, Metro Bank, and HSBC have all pledged to sign up to the voluntary code.

Which scheme is best?

RICHARD EMERY says TSB seems to cover more situations in which customers can fall victim to scams.

Banks which sign up to the new code can refuse to reimburse customers who ignore scam warnings, whereas TSB may not.

The code also considers whether a customer has tried to protect themselves. The banks will decide this on a case-by-case basis.

Also, as other banks have only agreed funding until the end of 2019, a longer-term solution is needed.

One idea is to pass on a levy to customers. Only Nationwide and Lloyds have pledged to cover the charge themselves.

Mr Emery says banks have known about the code since 2018, and TSB has just acted on it, but with minimum exclusions.

How do I prove fraud?

KEEP hold of any emails and text messages. Print off a version for your records. Keep the fraudsters' account number and sort code in case the bank deletes them.

If you believe you have become a fraud victim, call your bank immediately. Insist on speaking to the fraud team and tell them to contact the receiving bank at once.

Report the crime to Action Fraud, the national cybercrime reporting service. Without a reference number your bank may question why you do not want to alert law enforcement. Action Fraud collects data which allows it to identify trends and criminals.

If your bank decides not to refund you, make an official complaint. If it still refuses, go to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

The Ombudsman has raised the bar on what it considers gross negligence due to ever more sophisticated frauds.

This means if you are tricked into giving away information, such as a passcode used to confirm payments, it will ask the bank to prove you were careless.

fraud@dailyemail.co.uk

■ **COMPLAIN online at help.**
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By **Richard Meddings**

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF TSB

INNOCENT victims should not pay the cost of fraud.

It's the stories, not the statistics, that hit you; people — normal, law-abiding, money-saving people — who have seen their life-savings wiped out in an instant.

Everyone knows fraud is a growing problem, but nothing prepares you for the devastation it wreaks.

One of the many cases I've come across concerned an elderly couple from Aberdeen who took a call from a fraudster and were conned into thinking there had been a security breach on their internet banking. The crook asked them to transfer their money into a safe account and, just a few hours later, he'd swindled them out of thousands of pounds.

We need a hunting mentality when it comes to tracking down fraudsters. The

We must hunt down fraudsters like the criminals they are

people behind these crimes are cunning and organised.

Financial fraud needs to be treated like the serious crime it is. Banks have a big role to play and they are doing some great work, but we all need to do more. It's not enough to say that this is a matter for the police to sort out.

That's why TSB has set up a partnership with the Met Police — and is working with other local forces across the UK — to bring greater support and resources to this issue. Education is critical, so we're investing in fraud awareness programmes,

too. But all of this is irrelevant if you've already lost money to fraud.

Increasingly over the past year we've been repaying money when customers have made honest mistakes. But what we need now is to go one step further: we need a clear policy that protects

customers and ensures no innocent victims are left out of pocket after being taken in by a scam.

Fraudsters are becoming more and more sophisticated and are always devising new ways to attack customers. So, while we continue to invest in fraud-detection measures, these are not enough on their own.

Fraud refund policies just haven't kept pace with the scammers. You don't have to be frail or foolish to fall victim. All too often, customers must fight to be refunded and are treated unsympathetically.

So, for all these reasons, TSB has become the first bank to launch a guarantee that any innocent customer who falls victim to transactional bank fraud going forward will be reimbursed. We are incredibly proud of this commitment.

WHAT TO WRITE TO GET YOUR CASH BACK SEE PAGE 45

By **Samantha Partington**

MILLIONS of energy customers who switched to start-up firms to shield themselves from costly bills are now paying the price for their leap of faith.

Small suppliers are crashing out of the market at an alarming rate, with 11 firms going bust since the start of 2018.

Exclusive industry analysis reveals that nine of these firms together owed customers close to £113 million when they collapsed, £26 million of which belonged to customers who had already switched to a new supplier.

Yet despite promises that their cash was protected and would be refunded by their new provider, customers are still waiting for refunds months later.

Meanwhile, Money Mail has been bombarded with tales of appalling service from other small suppliers still in business.

Today, after handing a dossier of dozens of reader complaints to industry watchdog Ofgem, we can reveal the scale of financial havoc and emotional distress caused by decades of loose regulation of the energy market:

■ **COMPLAINTS** to the Energy Ombudsman are soaring, with small suppliers now accounting for a quarter of all gripes about firms.

■ **FIRMS** on the brink of collapse are clinging on to customers' credit balances and ignoring requests for refunds.

■ **EXPERTS** predict between five and ten more suppliers will cease trading this year.

■ **CUSTOMERS** are still waiting to get their money back six months after their energy firm went bust.

■ **SUPPLIERS** are sending out nonsensical bills and using heavy-handed debt collecting tactics.

■ **DIRE** customer service is driving customers back to the Big Six suppliers and putting people off switching.

WHY ARE MANY SMALL SUPPLIERS GOING BUST?

A QUARTER of all households now get their gas and electricity from a small or medium-sized energy company, many of them enticed by a flood of cheap deals on comparison websites that could be hundreds of pounds cheaper than those offered by the Big Six suppliers.

Even today, the 20 cheapest deals available are all with little-known names such as Outfox The Market, Utility Point, Lumo Energy, Powershop and Avro Energy.

Despite the loss of 11 suppliers, there are still more than 60 providers to choose from.

But Mark Todd, co-founder of switching service Energyhelpline, says: 'The rising cost of wholesale gas and electricity, the ease with which suppliers were able to get licences and intense competition will cause between five and ten more suppliers to go bust this year.'

In the wake of increasing chaos in the energy sector, Ofgem last week announced a shake up to its rules for start-up suppliers.

From June, new energy suppliers entering the market will have to pass tougher checks before they are granted a licence.

Incredibly, new entrants can buy a so-called 'supplier in a box' package from an IT provider — giving them all the tools they need to begin supplying energy, including a licence.

Acting like middle men, the firms sign up customers and buy the gas and electricity they need from the wholesale markets.

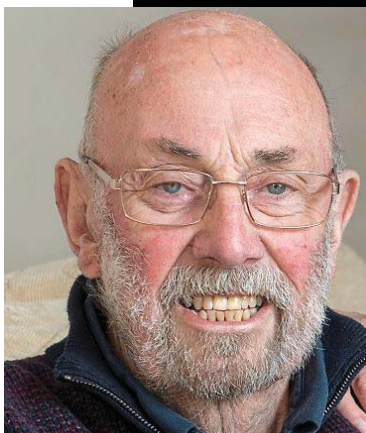
When the price of wholesale gas and electricity rose sharply last year, it hit some firms hard.

Some small suppliers buy power on a short-term basis, rather than buying it years in advance. If prices rise suddenly, but firms have offered their customers low, fixed tariffs for two years, they may struggle to make enough money to pay for power and go bust.

According to analysis of collapsed suppliers by one industry insider, one tell-tale sign a provider is in trouble is increased complaints about large credit balances building up on customer accounts, and long delays in refunding the cash.

Thanks to cheap tariffs and simpler switching, smaller energy firms are taking on the Big Six. But as complaints soar and some new suppliers collapse...

Are the energy minnows out of their depth?



£400 taken from account

Peter Coombes: Angry call

THREATENING DEBT LETTERS

PATRICIA LOW, 79, from Suffolk, has been waiting for a £147 refund since October.

Patricia used to be a customer of Extra Energy before she switched to Green Network Energy for a new deal. She received her final bill stating she was in credit.

When the money did not turn up,



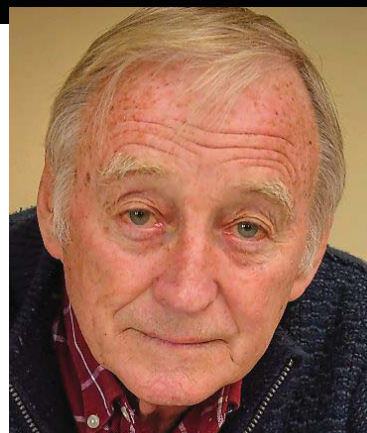
Six months for a refund

Patricia Low: Owed £147

she tried to call the company, but was unable to get through. The company had gone bust.

In December, Scottish Power took over Extra Energy's 108,000 domestic customers and promised to refund any credit balances, but Patricia is still waiting.

The retired reporter for the Lowestoft Journal says: 'When I saw they owed me money, I thought, "Oh good I can buy



£460 credit vanished

Geoffrey Dryland: So upset

Christmas presents with that." But it's April now and I still haven't received anything.'

At the time of Extra Energy's collapse in November, the Energy Ombudsman had received 1,160 complaints about the company over the previous 12 months. It says its caseload is still growing.

Complaints website Resolver says it is also receiving around 50 letters and emails a week about

the firm's debt collecting practices, being carried out by administrator PriceWaterhouseCooper (PWC).

Hundreds of former account holders and members of the public who had never been customers feared they had been targeted by fraudsters when they received debt collecting letters from PWC.

Angry recipients wrote to Money Mail explaining they didn't owe any money to the firm.

A PWC spokesman confirmed the letters were genuine. It adds that it is aware of a limited number of instances where people have already paid or dispute the outstanding amount and apologised for the confusion.

Scottish Power says it realises it has taken too long to issue final bills and return customers' credit balances and has apologised.

STILL WAITING FOR £500 BACK

BRIAN and Vivienne Clarke, from Somerset, are still waiting to get £500 back from Economy Energy after it collapsed in January.

Ovo Energy was appointed to take over Economy Energy's 235,000 customers and has promised to refund any credit owed to all affected.

Yet since the Clarks' account was moved to Ovo, Economy

Pictures: BNPS / ROB HOWARTH / ANDY KELVIN

DOS AND DON'TS

■ **DO NOT** panic if your supplier goes bust. Ofgem will appoint a new supplier in around a week.

■ **DO TAKE** a meter reading and sit tight. Your supply will not be interrupted and Ofgem promises to safeguard any credit balances you have with the company.

■ **DO ASK** your new supplier to put you on their cheapest deal as soon as they contact you.

■ **DO NOT** assume this is the best deal available. Compare it with others on the market.

■ **DO NOT** switch to a supplier just because it has the lowest price. Check Citizens Advice's energy suppliers' customer service ratings.

■ **DO READ** reviews of firms' customer service on social media pages or review websites.

■ **DO CHOOSE** a switching service that rates firms as well as giving the price of deals such as *energyhelpline.com*.

■ **DO NOT** choose a firm that has no customer service telephone number.

the so-called Big Six suppliers: British Gas, Eon, EDF Energy, Npower, Scottish Power and SSE.

While the number of people switching energy suppliers has increased in general, 59,134 customers ditched small and medium-sized companies for a Big Six firm in February, up from 45,383 the previous month, figures from Energy UK show.

Martyn James, of complaints site Resolver, says: 'One of the great tragedies that has come from the spectacularly awful customer service from some smaller energy providers is it could be putting people off switching.'

Peter Coombes, 76, from Bourne-mouth, says he will never switch to a small supplier again. In October 2017, he moved to Toto Energy when a comparison site told him he could save £288 a year on his combined gas and electricity bill.

Almost straight away, the company upped his combined payments from £93 to £140 a month.

Peter sent in his readings every few months, but was frequently told, via an automated email, that his account could not be found.

Peter decided to switch to large supplier Eon. When he received his final bill in November, he found he was £382 in credit and was told he would receive it in 28 days.

Having heard nothing from the firm by January, he contacted the Ombudsman and finally, in March, Toto agreed to give him his money back and £30 for his troubles.

He received £412.44 in total and closed his account, but forgot to cancel his direct debit. A week later, Toto took the £412.44 back.

Peter says: 'I called them, gave them a piece of my mind, and they gave me my money back two days later. I would never switch to a small supplier again.'

A Toto spokesman says: 'We are in close contact with the Ombudsman and in our most recent meeting they noted that the rise in complaints had been reversed.'

NEW RULES FOR BETTER SERVICE

UNDER Ofgem's new rules, firms will have to prove they can provide good customer service. This includes accurate billing and an efficient phone and email service.

Last year, nearly two-thirds of all complaints received about small suppliers related to billing, according to the Energy Ombudsman.

Switching complaints accounted for 12pc of complaints, customer service 9pc and payments and debt 6pc.

s.partington@dailymail.co.uk
The Last Word — Page 52

energy has taken a further two £46 monthly payments.

Then, when Brian received his first bill from Ovo this month, it said his monthly payments would increase to £188 and failed to show the £500 credit he had built up or any of the two monthly payments he had made since Economy Energy stopped trading.

He's been told Economy Energy must send a final bill to Ovo before he will see his money again.

The 76-year-old retired coach driver says: 'The system does not work. The regulator tells you not to worry, you will be transferred to a new supplier and your money is safe. But once they have chosen the new supplier, they do not make sure the process is working properly. You are just told to sit tight and wait.'

When the firm collapsed, the Energy Ombudsman was investigating 1,300 cases of dissatisfaction — one of the highest monthly complaint levels it has seen outside the Big Six suppliers.

Former pilot Geoffrey Dryland and his wife Gillian, a retired teacher, both 74, are waiting for Ovo to refund a £460 credit which they had built up with Economy Energy. Geoffrey, from Staffordshire, who had a stroke last April, says his experience with both suppliers from start to finish has been very

upsetting. 'This whole situation has made me so upset. I have lost all that money.'

Since Money Mail contacted Ovo, it has agreed to refund the couple.

A spokesman for Ovo says it is committed to honouring all credit balances. Economy Energy customers should start receiving final bills in the next few weeks.

RETURNING TO THE BIG SIX

GILLIAN GUY, chief executive of charity Citizens Advice, says long waiting times for refunds, difficulty switching and debt chasing practices when firms fail have prompted a large number of calls from the public.

Regulator Ofgem admits that in some cases it is taking longer than expected for new suppliers to refund customers because of delays caused by poor record-keeping by the failed supplier.

However, it expects the new supplier to work hard to manage the transfer and be ready to deal with any issues that emerge.

Frustrated readers have also told Money Mail how they are battling to get their cash back from small suppliers that are still taking on new customers.

Some are so fed up, they are starting to desert the minnows for

FROM PAGE 39

IF YOU'RE A BANK SCAM VICTIM, USE THIS TEMPLATE LETTER TO FIGHT BACK

[Your full name, address and phone number]

Dear Sir/Madam

Reference: [Insert account number]

I was targeted by fraudsters on [enter date] who stole [enter amount] from my account.

[Explain here what happened]

As of April 14, TSB has agreed to refund all customers who innocently fall victim to scams. And from May 28, other major banks will introduce a new code of conduct that will see customers be treated fairly and compensated when they are defrauded.

I did my best to protect myself from these sophisticated criminals and at no point did I suspect I was communicating with them.

So I urge you to consider my complaint and refund me the money I lost.

If you do not uphold my complaint, I request you send me your reasoning in writing so I can refer the matter to the Financial Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,
[Your name]

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cashback
Exclusions and
T&Cs apply

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Use ALL the tax year to invest at leisure... and avoid last-minute panic

THERE'S always a scramble to invest at the end of the tax year — and I've never really understood it.

Those who are self-employed or receive bonuses might have to make a guesstimate of their annual income if they invest early, but delaying until the last minute has always felt like a missed opportunity.

Research suggests delaying could have cost investors the equivalent of a year's £20,000 Isa allowance over the past decade.

Using your Isa allowance or contributing to a pension in April rather than in the following March gives your money almost a year more to grow.

You'll also benefit from any dividend payments made during the tax year.

A second option is to drip money in monthly throughout the year thus surfing the highs and lows of the stock market.

Both options allow us to make investment decisions at leisure rather than being swallowed in a last-minute panic.

Fidelity has put out figures showing what would have happened to investors using their full Isa allowance and tracking the FTSE All Share index over the past ten tax years.

This would mean a total of £136,360 was invested as the Isa allowance grew from £7,200 to £20,000 a year over this period.

Someone investing their full allowance on April 6, the start of the tax year, would by last week have £199,832.

Saving monthly, as I often have, would have accrued someone £192,499 — so not too far behind.

But the person who invested at the end of the tax year, on April 5, would have £179,610. So delaying until the deadline would have cost them £20,000 — they might

TONY HAZELL The Prudent Investor



as well have built a bonfire with a year's Isa allowance.

Investing early only gives you the potential of a year's extra growth but also means you will benefit from any dividends paid through the year, which can be reinvested to boost your returns.

Investment platform Interactive Investor went a step further and checked what would have happened over the past 20 years. It found that the early bird investor would have a portfolio worth almost £388,000, regular monthly investors £381,000 and the last-minute investors £370,000.

This takes in the long market slump in the early 2000s and

the banking crisis — both occasions where investing at the end of the year should have had a marked advantage.

Significantly Interactive Investor says that 40pc of its Isa millionaires were April investors compared with 14pc for those investing in March.

Among the non-millionaires, 21pc invested in April and 25pc in March, with the rest spread through the year.

Moir O'Neill, head of personal finance at Interactive Investor says: 'Investing your money for as long as possible is typically beneficial to your long-term wealth.'

'But if you can't afford to invest

the whole amount at the start, investing regularly is also a good option. Investing early in the tax year won't make a you a millionaire overnight, but it will mean your money is working harder for longer — which will hopefully mean that you won't have to.'

The underlying message is how difficult it is for us private investors to time the market.

Unless we have serious concerns — and I accept Brexit and trade wars are two we must take into account — we do better to get in and then stick with it.

Consider these figures from Hargreaves Lansdown, the fund supermarket. If you had invested £10,000 in the FTSE All Share in 1999 and left it there you would have £28,000 today if dividends had been invested in buying more shares.

If you had been clever or lucky enough to miss the worst ten days you would have £51,700. But if you sold at the wrong time and missed the best ten days you would have £15,100.

The best and worst days tend to come in clusters. The stock market had seven of its worst ten days since 1999 in a two-month

spell in autumn 2008 with falls of between 5pc and 8pc on each of these days.

But six of the ten best days were between September and December 2008 with the market rising by between 5pc and 9pc on each day.

Even if you're planning to use a cash Isa early investment really does make sense.

If you're one of those who pays tax on savings interest then delaying will build up a bill for a further year, whereas investing now would stop this.

On a £20,000 fixed-rate cash Isa investment at 1.8pc you would earn £360 interest this year.

So investing now could save £72 tax for a basic-rate payer, £144 for a higher-rate taxpayer or £162 if you pay at the additional rate, compared with having the money in a normal taxed account.

For our part, Mrs H is saving monthly into Lindsell Train Global Equity via a self-invested personal pension, while I've helped a friend stash their money in a cash Isa to reduce tax bills.

As for me: I remain in drip-feeding mode while the Brexit farce plays itself out.

t.hazell@dailymail.co.uk

Time to ditch your big bank Isa

SAVERS with big High Street banks should transfer their Isa cash now to get a better deal.

If you opened an Isa with a major bank in previous tax years it is likely that your rate has now dropped to as little as 0.2pc. Even if it hasn't, you could still earn more elsewhere, with top rates as high as 1.46pc.

This is a difference of £252 interest annually if you put in the full £20,000 Isa allowance.

So if you rushed to open a cash Isa with your current account provider before the tax year ended, you should now consider switching to a better-paying account.

Savers in Halifax Isa Saver Variable currently earn 0.6pc. But once you have been in the account for 12 months the bank moves your money into its Instant Isa Saver paying a miserly 0.2pc. Santander Easy Isa and NatWest Cash Isa both pay as little as 0.2pc and Lloyds Cash Isa Saver 0.35pc.

Barclays Instant Cash Isa savers fare little better with 0.7pc at best, while the

By **Sylvia Morris**

HSBC Loyalty cash Isa pays between 0.55pc and 0.85pc.

Under taxman rules, you can move cash Isa savings built up in previous tax years between providers without penalty. You can split them between as many as you want, and between fixed-rate and easy-access accounts.

To switch, you just need to pick a new deal and ask the bank or building society offering it to make the transfer. Do not withdraw the cash yourself as you will only be allowed to reinvest a maximum £20,000 in this tax year.

It is up to each bank and building society as to whether they accept transfers.

Unfortunately, many of the best deals often don't, such as Market Harborough BS Easy Access Isa at 1.25pc. National Savings & Investments Direct Isa at 0.9pc also won't accept transfers.

If your fixed-rate cash Isa is coming to an end, be careful not to transfer it before the

end of the term. It could mean you are hit with a hefty penalty.

Top easy-access deals that do accept transfers include Kent Reliance Easy Access Isa at 1.46pc. Online, Paragon Bank Limited Edition Easy Access Isa pays 1.45pc, Coventry BS Easy Access (Online) 2 pays 1.45pc and Leeds BS Limited Edition Online Access 11 pays 1.46pc.

Both Coventry and Leeds rates include a bonus rate for the first year — so you might have to switch again next year.

In the High Street, Yorkshire BS pays 1.46pc and Nationwide up to 1.4pc, but both restrict the withdrawals to as little as one a year. Leeds Double Access Isa allows two annually and pays 1.3pc. Skipton Cash Isa Tracker pays up to 1.36pc with limited withdrawals.

High Street deals with no bonuses or withdrawal restrictions include Virgin Money at 1.16pc and Coventry BS at 1.15pc.

Your switch should be completed within 15 working days.

sy.morris@dailymail.co.uk

Fixed rate bonds dip

INTEREST rates on short-term fixed-rate bonds have fallen to a six-month low, according to researchers Moneyfacts.

The average rate on one-year bonds is now 1.42pc, and savers need to move quickly if they are going to grab top rates.

These rates stay on sale for an average 48 days against a previous 62 days in January.

One of the latest to cut its rate is Shawbrook Bank, which closed its one-year fixed-rate bond at 1.97pc yesterday and replaced it with a new version at a much lower 1.65pc.

The best one-year rate is 2pc with Kent Reliance and Metro Bank. For two years, PCF Bank pays 2.26pc.

SYLVIA MORRIS'S

SAVINGS STAR BUYS

OUR expert's pick of this week's top deals on different types of account

ONLINE ACCOUNTS

TYPE	PROVIDER	ACCOUNT	RATE %
Easy access	Kent Reliance	Online Only Easy Access	1.5
Fixed-rate bond	Kent Reliance	One-year fix	2.0
Easy-access cash Isa	Kent Reliance	Easy Access Cash Isa 18	1.46
Fixed-rate cash Isa	Kent Reliance	One-year fix	1.8

BRANCH ACCOUNTS

TYPE	PROVIDER	ACCOUNT	RATE %
Easy access	Kent Reliance	Easy Access Account 32	1.4
	Virgin Money	Easy Access Saver 32	1.16
Fixed-rate bond	Metro Bank	One-year fix	2.0
	Yorkshire BS	Fixed to April 30, 2020	1.55
Easy-access cash Isa	Kent Reliance	Easy Access Cash Isa 18	1.46
	Market Harborough BS	Easy Access Isa 2019/20	1.25
Fixed-rate cash Isa	Yorkshire BS	Fixed to April 30, 2020	1.55
	Metro Bank	One-year fix	1.55

FOR MORE BEST-BUY SAVINGS TABLES GO TO: THISISMONEY.CO.UK/SAVE

By Amelia Murray

A NEW breed of smartphone apps could help you build a savings habit without even trying.

Some work by automatically rounding up any payments to the nearest pound and stashing away the difference. Others analyse your spending habits and suggest how much you can afford to save.

With Britons saving less than ever, experts say the apps are an easy way to get started and urge parents to encourage children to sign up. But you should avoid leaving cash languishing in these accounts for too long — they're unlikely to offer the best interest rates.

Here, Money Mail explains how the apps work — and the catches to watch out for...

TANDEM

SINCE launching in 2014, Tandem has amassed more than 500,000 customers. It was the first savings provider to insist that you manage your account via a mobile phone.

HOW DOES IT WORK? First, download the Tandem app on to your mobile phone and link it to your current account using Open Banking — a system that allows banks and third parties to share your financial information securely.

To do this, you need to enter your online banking details. Then, every time you use your debit card, your spending will be rounded up to the nearest pound.

The extra will be moved into a flexible savings account paying 0.5pc interest once a week. You will be notified first to give you a chance to change your mind. You can withdraw funds at any time.

Tandem's Safe to Save feature monitors your spending and calculates how much extra you can afford to put away each month. The maximum it will recommend is 15pc of your income.

IS IT SAFE? Up to £85,000 of your money is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

COST: Free.

MONZO

MONZO Bank began offering app-only current accounts in late 2017 and now has more than one million customers. It launched its savings tool Coin Jar in March 2018.

HOW DOES IT WORK? To sign up, download the Monzo app and open a current account. Then create a 'pot' and select the option to round up transactions automatically.

You can set up multiple pots for different goals — for example to save for a holiday or house deposit. Any payments over £1 will be rounded up to the nearest pound and the extra will go into your chosen pot.

You can also reward yourself for good spending behaviour or set up a penalty pot. You could agree to tax yourself £5 automatically

every time you order a takeaway. You can access cash at any time.

IS IT SAFE? Yes, up to £85,000 is covered by the FSCS.

COST: Free.

CHIP

SAVINGS app Chip, which launched in 2016, analyses your spending and decides how much you can afford to save. It has more than 100,000 users.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Download the Chip app and link your current account using Open Banking. Every two to three days, Chip

looks at what purchases you've made and compares them to your usual spending patterns.

If you have spent less than expected, the difference will be stashed away. You can also opt to move an additional £100 from your current account to Chip six times a month. You will not earn any interest on what you save.

If you refer people to the app, you will be paid 1pc per person for a year, up to a maximum of 5pc. Withdrawals can be in your current account the same working day.

IS IT SAFE? Your money is ring-

fenced in a Barclays account, where up to £85,000 is protected as usual under FSCS.

COST: Free.

PLUM

LONDON-BASED savings app Plum launched in 2017 and has around 375,000 customers.

Like Chip, it helps you save by estimating how much you can afford to spare.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Visit withplum.com and set up the app using Facebook's messaging service. You need to enter

Trendy apps that can turn the... change from a £1.90... into a nice little...



Pictures: GETTY/STEVEN PUEZTER

your email address and bank account information.

Plum analyses your daily spending habits and transfers small amounts into a savings account around five times a month.

You can choose between six settings: 'Normal' is the default, while 'Beast' mode, for example, ramps up the amount you save by as much as 75pc. However, you will not earn any interest.

Withdrawals are paid within 24 hours on business days.

You can also opt to invest your cash. Choose from three risk options: conservative, balanced or growth. You can pick the types of firms you want to invest in, such as ethical or tech companies.

If you need your investment back, it can take up to a week.

IS IT SAFE? As with Chip, up to £85,000 cash and investments is protected in a Barclays account.

COST: Free if you stick to cash. The investment option is free for the first month and is £1 a month thereafter. There is also a 0.15pc fee on the value of your fund investments, charged monthly.

MONEYBOX

MORE than 150,000 customers have signed up for London-based Moneybox since it launched in 2016. Instead of storing your money in cash, it invests it.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Download the Moneybox app, enter your bank details to link it to your account and open a stocks and shares Isa. You can choose to make one-off payments or just use the round-up option. There are three investment options to choose from: cautious, balanced and adventurous. It may take two weeks to withdraw any money.

IS IT SAFE? Up to £85,000 of your money is protected under the FSCS investment limit.

COST: There is no subscription fee for the first three months, after which you pay £1 a month. On top of this there is a monthly 0.45pc platform fee and fund fees of between 0.12pc and 0.3pc.

BIG BANKS

LLOYDS and TSB also offer auto-saving schemes to customers with current and savings accounts, so you don't have to share your details with a third party.

Switch on Lloyds' Save the Change feature by logging into your online banking, visiting a branch or calling 0345 300 0000. TSB has a similar scheme which rounds up spare change.

However, big banks rarely pay the best rates. Lloyds' Easy Saver account, for example, pays 0.2pc. TSB's Easy Saver pays 0.5pc.

a.murray@daily mail.co.uk

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- withdrawals not allowed. Early closure incurs a 180 day interest penalty, so you could get back less than you paid in
- interest paid annually
- transfers into a 1 Year Fixed Rate Cash ISA at the end of the fixed term, unless you choose otherwise.

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[†]AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and shows what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year. All ISA interest is paid tax-free, which means it's exempt from income tax. Tax rules may change in future. Rate correct as at 12/04/19.

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Should you wish to make a withdrawal at any time, the first withdrawal per Account Year* won't affect the interest rate. If you want to make further withdrawals in the same year, then the interest rate will go down to **0.50%** AER/tax-free (variable) until the anniversary of when you opened your account. After that, it will go back up to the higher rate again. You can save up to your annual ISA allowance, or transfer your existing ISAs into your new Nationwide ISA. This ISA is available for a limited time only.



*Account Year means 12 months from the date the account was opened and each following 12 month period. UK residents, 16+. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate which illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded once per year. Tax-free is the contractual rate of interest payable where interest is exempt from income tax. The information provided is based on our understanding of current law and HM Revenue & Customs practice, both of which may change. Interest is paid annually. Interest rates and products can change or be withdrawn without notice. Information correct at 21/03/2019.

Nationwide Building Society. Head Office: Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN38 1NW.

The new £9,000 pension hammer blow for women

By **Ben Wilkinson**

THOUSANDS of women could be deprived of more than £9,000 in retirement because of another careless oversight with the rise in state pension age.

Campaigners are already calling for compensation for women unable to prepare for the loss of income after the Government increased their state pension age from 60 to match men at 66 in 2020 and then to 67 by 2028.

Now, Money Mail can reveal how hundreds of thousands of women could find their private pensions are also much worse off due to the change to their official retirement age.

Among those potentially affected include workers approaching the end of their careers, whose pension fund is moved into safer, but less lucrative, investments — usually ten to 15 years before they expected to retire.

This is called 'lifestyling' and is done to shield their savings after years of more risky, but usually much more profitable, investment gains.

However, if your new state retirement age has now been moved from 60 up to 67, then that would mean your pot could miss out on seven years of vital bountiful investment.

Analysis for Money Mail reveals that if an average pension pot of £50,000 is 'lifestyled' seven years too

early, then the owner could miss out on returns of £9,357 over the course of retirement — or £327.50 a year.

Men drawing a pension at 65 and women at 60 was the established norm for the second half of the 20th century. Anyone buying or selling a financial product probably assumed that this would not change. As a result there are likely to be lots of products and contracts based on drawing a pension at 60 or 65 that could now cause problems.

Experts are calling for a review of all policies written to last until the ages of 60 or 65, rather than 'the state pension age'.

Steve Webb, director of policy at Royal London, says: 'Providers should be ensuring customers are not caught in this trap, and savers should review their policies to check the retirement plans they set out years ago reflect the new situation.'

The former pensions minister adds: 'Thousands of women will have taken out private pensions when they expected to draw their pensions at 60. If they and their pension provider have not revisited this plan, there is a risk that their investments will have been switched into a cautious 'pre-retirement' mode up to seven

Now the taxman cuts

TAXPAYERS are spending hours trying to speak to HM Revenue & Customs on the telephone, only to be cut off.

Readers have told Money Mail they have found it 'impossible' to speak to the taxman as the latest figures show the department is failing to hit its targets for answering calls.

Many reported being cut off after speaking to an automated voice system for more than ten minutes. The frustration comes as many receive penalty notices for late tax returns in the new financial year.

April also sees people flood HMRC with queries over new tax codes, allowances and changes to the

system. Taxpayers dialling the 0300 number — which charges up to 10p a minute (landline) or up to 40p (mobile) — are being greeted with the message: 'We are very busy right now and you might have to wait longer to speak to an adviser.'

Callers then have to speak to an automated voice recording to categorise their call. This can take ten minutes before the caller is put on hold, or told to try later and cut off.

One self-employed consultant spent all of Friday afternoon unsuccessfully trying to speak to HMRC about a £100 penalty she had wrongly received for a late tax return that she had filed in Decem-

Picture:
GETTY

years too soon. This could knock thousands off a typical pension pot.'

If you are worried your pension pot could be 'lifestyled' too early, you should contact your provider.

Many 'bridging' pensions were also promised to pay up until the ages of 60/65 — and could now end prematurely. These were offered to workers retiring before they reached state pension age. It would pay you the state pension rate until you were entitled to collect it — meaning you could retire early.

Pensions expert Baroness Ros Altmann says: 'That's not something that people have ever been warned about. It is a forgotten consequence of the increase to the state pension age.'

'You have to live on less and you may not have budgeted for that. Some people have been left high and dry.'

The findings come after Money Mail revealed last month how thousands of people were sold income protection policies that will run dry before they can collect their state pension.

The insurance was commonly sold to last until state retirement age, but now people claiming will see payments stop well before they can afford to retire, leaving them with a devastating shortfall.

It is understood at least one major insurer is now preparing to warn

customers affected by the oversight, while industry body the Association of British Insurers (ABI) has alerted members to the issue.

Money Mail readers also came forward to tell their stories of the issue described as 'an absolute scandal'.

One, aged 51, has been claiming £750 a month since 1996 when she became too ill to work after developing the neurological condition ME, contracting meningitis and having been born with the Ehlers-Danlos syndrome genetic disease.

But her policy payments will end seven years before she can collect her pension. The woman, who asked not to be named, says her financial adviser did not give her the option to have the policy run any longer than 60.

She took it out with Tunbridge Wells Equitable, which is now run by Foresters, and says: 'The change of circumstance is not ours, it has been forced on us.'

'I am going to be missing out on more than £70,000 and will spend seven years living in poverty as I have no private pension or any income other than state sickness benefits. The worry keeps me awake at night.'

Money Mail has seen two policy information booklets that reveal those taking out the cover were offered protection only until the age of 60 if a woman or 65 for men.

b.wilkinson@daily@mail.co.uk

Did you know?

A 50p coin featuring the black hole and Stephen Hawking's name is on sale at the Royal Mint for £10

you off after 10 minutes

ber. She says: 'It was an automated message for ten minutes, and at the end they say we are too busy and the phone line goes dead. It is a ridiculous system. They make it incredibly difficult to speak to anyone.'

'I cannot tell you how many hours I have wasted on this. People just want to pay their tax and be upstanding members of society, but they make it as difficult as possible.'

The latest figures from HMRC show the average time to answer a call in February was six minutes 27 seconds, but this does not include the automated voice system. The target time is five minutes.

The average response time from

April 2018 to February 2019 was five minutes 14 seconds — up from four minutes 27 seconds when compared with the same period a year before.

The tax office also aims to make sure no more than 15pc of customers are left waiting more than ten minutes to speak to an adviser.

But in February, 29pc of calls went unanswered for at least ten minutes. One worker said they had been on hold for 45 minutes.

An HMRC spokesman says: 'We know that at busy times some customers have to wait longer, and we are doing all we can to keep all waiting times as low as possible.'

b.wilkinson@daily@mail.co.uk

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Should you wish to make a withdrawal at any time, the first withdrawal per Account Year* won't affect the interest rate. If you want to make further withdrawals in the same year, then the interest rate will go down to 0.50% AER/tax-free (variable) until the anniversary of when you opened your account. After that, it will go back up to the higher rate again. You can save up to your annual ISA allowance, or transfer your existing ISAs into your new Nationwide ISA. This ISA is available for a limited time only.



Nationwide

Building Society

*Account Year means 12 months from the date the account was opened and each following 12 month period. UK residents, 16+. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate which illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded once per year. Tax-free is the contractual rate of interest payable where interest is exempt from income tax. The information provided is based on our understanding of current law and HM Revenue & Customs practice, both of which may change. Interest is paid annually. Interest rates and products can change or be withdrawn without notice. Information correct at 21/03/2019.

Nationwide Building Society. Head Office: Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN38 1NW.

They're the gadgets that slash teens' car insurance premiums. But... Black boxes can now save OLDER drivers a fortune

OLDER motorists facing sky-high car insurance charges due to their age are being urged to save money with new technology that prices premiums simply on how you drive.

Black box car insurance has been praised for reducing accidents and helping young drivers save hundreds of pounds. Officially known as telematics insurance, this type of policy gets its name from the small device insurers fit in your car to monitor your driving.

Typical car insurers price premiums according to how much risk they think you pose, based on such factors as your age and where you live. But with telematics policies,

By **Rosie Taylor**

prices can go up or down depending on your driving style, mileage, routes you tend to take and the time of day you travel.

Studies show that drivers who have a black box fitted into their car tend to drive more carefully. In return, they are rewarded with a cheaper policy.

The deals are proving popular among younger drivers desperate to reduce prohibitively high premiums because of their age.

Around one in three drivers under 25 uses a black box to save money on their insurance, according to analysts LexisNexis Risk Solutions.

Yet, only one in ten people aged between 35 and 54 has taken out a

telematics policy — and just one in 20 drivers aged over 55.

Money Mail research suggests this may be because older drivers are not aware of this type of insurance. Our analysis shows that drivers in their late 50s were typically offered half as many black box deals as drivers in their early 20s.

This is despite motorists aged 50 to 64 standing to save an average of £484 per year with such a policy, according to comparison site Comparethemarket. Those aged 65 to 79 could save £343, and over-80s could pocket £145, it adds.

Martyn Mathews, of LexisNexis, says: 'The vast majority of drivers who could gain from the safety advantages of telematics and insurance costs based on how they drive, rather than how insurance providers think they might drive, are missing out.'

Experts believe offering more elderly drivers black box policies could also help put an end to unfairly high premiums.

Earlier this year, Money Mail revealed how some octogenarian drivers were quoted up to £3,800 for an annual premium, despite driving for six decades without a claim.

Insurers put over-80s into a 'high risk' category, because they are statistically more likely to have an accident.

But as Roger Ramsden, group chief executive of telematics insurer MyPolicy, says: 'The traditional insurance industry is based on putting drivers into clusters of risk, but, by its very nature, that system means that half of those in every group are overpaying and the other half are underpaying.'

Black boxes could overcome this problem, as older drivers can use their driving data to prove they are still safe behind the wheel.

Despite the benefits for all drivers, insurers are targeting black box policies at younger people who may be more willing to try out new technology and are desperate to lower their sky-high premiums.

But there may be other factors putting older drivers off.

A third of drivers who told Comparethemarket they did not want a black box were worried about having to pay for the removal of the box if they switched insurers.

Coverbox charges £60 to remove its gadget, while the cost to disconnect the device during



Driving a bargain: Michelle Seelhoff

'Big Brother' device cut my bill by £250

WHEN Michelle Seelhoff, 55, used a comparison website to search for car insurance for her Land Rover Freelander, she — like many older drivers — was offered just one telematics deal.

But the artist and her husband, Kevin, 57, who works in construction supplies, decided to take out the £400 policy with Coverbox because the next cheapest deal on offer was around £250 more expensive.

Michelle says: 'I'm a safe driver, so I knew I might be able to save money with a black box deal.'

'I didn't have any concerns that the way I drive would make my premium go up.'

An engineer came to their home, near Taunton in Somerset, to fit the device under the dashboard — a process that took around 30-45 minutes.

'It looked exactly the same as before. You couldn't see

the box at all,' she says. The installation was free, but the couple had to pay a policy set-up fee of £10 and a 'device management fee' of £120.

They renewed this year and these fees dropped to £5 and £60, respectively.

But Michelle says the deal was a bargain, even with the added costs. 'As well as saving us around £200 a year, it also makes you think a bit more about how you drive,' she says.

Michelle doesn't check her driving score online because she is confident she drives safely at all times, saying she is a 'goody-goody' about sticking to speed limits and not braking harshly.

She adds: 'Although I joke that it's a bit like Big Brother watching you, I think it has a positive effect and makes you drive more carefully — which is a good thing.'

money@mail@daily@mail.co.uk

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Jail for the Wolves of Wind Street

A TEAM of call centre scammers who called themselves the Wolves of Wind Street have been jailed for their shameless operation.

As Money Mail reported last month, the group conned 1,200 elderly victims, whom they referred to as 'pension-rich suckers', out of £425,000.

Consumers were told they would get a free boiler under a Government scheme that did not exist, in return for an upfront fee.

Company directors, Kyle Lewis, 30, Darren Palmer, 42, and David Alford, 33, were each

jailed for three years and nine months, while compliance manager, Jason Cunliff, 42, was jailed for 18 months.

The court heard the group earned up to £8,000 a day at its peak, which they spent on drinking and partying in the notorious Wind Street nightclub area of Swansea.

The company was about to expand into the PPI market and open a new office when Trading Standards raided the premises in 2015.

Last Word — Page 52

My son quit his mobile deal but got a £1,800 bill

MY ADULT son is extremely dyslexic and relies on me for help with financial matters. Recently, I spotted he had two monthly payments being taken for his mobile phone, one to Orange and the other to EE, which operates Orange.

It seems that, after he terminated a contract on October 31, 2014, monthly payments continued to be taken. I worked out he was owed £1,777.35. I now realise I missed one month's payment from my total, so the amount is actually £1,812.20.

We were told everything would be settled in ten to 14 days and he would receive £1,766.19 from EE. There was no explanation as to why the amount was reduced.

Six weeks have passed and he has still received nothing.

Mrs L. K., South Glos.

EE TELLS me the original contract was never cancelled and that's why direct debits continued to be taken. But it can see there has been no use, so it is happy to make the refund.

It says it tried to process the repayment directly to your son's bank account, but the details were not valid, so it sent a cheque instead. Your son has now received £1,766.19.

EE has also given him a month's credit on his new account to settle matters. It has suggested you are co-named on his account in case of any future issues.

I WAS left legacy shares in Rexam plc. This was taken over by Ball Corporation in July 2016. How can I sell these shares, which I don't believe are listed on the London Stock Exchange?

L. C., by email.

I HAVE a number of ordinary shares with BP that I would like to sell. Can you tell me the best way to go about this?

M. P., by email.

I'VE had a few questions about selling shares. I am guessing these are from people with old certificates, as opposed to those who hold them electronically via broker nominee accounts.

I took these questions to Andy Parsons, head of investments and product proposition at The Share Centre.

'If the shares are held in a nominee account, all that needs to happen is for the customer to call the holding broker and request a sale,' he says.

'If the holding is held in certificated form, the customer should contact the registrar stated on the certificate to check the validity of it and ask who they have as their designated broker for selling.'

'If you hold any foreign stock with your nominated broker, these should generally be in electronic form and therefore relatively easy to trade.'

Apparently, when Rexam was



Ask TONY

Money Mail's letters page tackles all your financial headaches



acquired by Ball Corporation, investors would have received a choice of cash or new shares in Ball Corporation.

Costs can differ between brokers and it is worth shopping around to see who offers the lowest dealing charges, but with paper certificates it is likely to cost at least £20.

WE ARE selling our house for £105,000 and moving into rented sheltered housing. We would like to give this money to our three children before we die. Will they have to pay inheritance tax if we do?

G. C., Paisley, Renfrewshire.

IN SHORT: no, unless you have considerable assets elsewhere.

You and your wife each have an inheritance tax (IHT) allowance of £325,000. In addition, you have a residence allowance of £150,000 each as long as the property, or the money from it, is left to direct descendants. So, together,

you can leave £950,000 without your estates being liable to IHT.

The one issue I will raise is that of care fees. If, at some future date, you or your wife have to go into care and are not self-funding, then the local authority may decide that you have deliberately deprived yourself of assets in order to avoid paying care fees.

In this case, it could seek to recover the money you have given away in order to pay for your care. However, it can do this only if you had a reasonable expectation of needing to pay for care when you made the gift.

This is complex, so you may wish to seek legal advice before proceeding, either from a lawyer or your local Citizens Advice.

.....
■ WRITE to Ask Tony, Money Mail, Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT or email asktony@daily mail.co.uk — include phone number, address and a note addressed to the offending organisation giving it permission to talk to Tony Hazell. We regret we cannot reply to individual letters. Please do not send original documents as we cannot take responsibility for them. No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Daily Mail for answers given.

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

Our friends don't want to go without us, and easyJet is refusing to refund all our fares.

N. H., by email.

EASYJET says it was sorry to hear of your circumstances, but your tickets are non-refundable. It recommends taking out comprehensive travel insurance to cover such situations.

E.ON sent me an estimated bill that was too high. When I called to provide my actual readings, the sum was reduced, but E.ON still wants to increase my monthly direct debit.

J. M., Colchester.

E.ON reviews direct debits twice a year to stop customers building up debt. However, because you have solar panels that, in summer, generate more electricity than you need, it's hard to work out what you should pay. E.ON has now agreed to lower your monthly bills.

PLUSNET has not billed me for my broadband or landline since November. It says the system will be sorted soon, but I'm still waiting.

D. W., Harrogate, N. Yorks.

PLUSNET says some customers are having issues with its new billing system, which it introduced last year. It adds it is working hard to fix the problem and will backdate bills for a maximum of only three months when the issue is sorted.

I ACCEPTED a temporary nursing role through an agency which promised, in an email, to pay £9.78 an hour, but I was paid only £9.07 an hour. I was told I must accept the lower sum.

H. M., by email.

IT IS useful that you have written evidence, says Martha McKinley, an employment law solicitor at Stephensons. If you signed a contract, even better, as the firm would likely be in breach had it failed to notify you in writing of the new rate before you completed the work. You should make a formal complaint and request the shortfall is reimbursed. If it refuses, seek legal advice.

MY FRIEND and I lost our jobs and can no longer afford to go on a booked group holiday.

YOU HAVE YOUR SAY

EVERY week, Money Mail receives hundreds of your letters and emails about our stories. Here are some from our article on how certain pet insurance firms try to wriggle out of paying claims...

INSURANCE firms always ask how they can refuse, recoup or reduce claims. I used to work as a loss adjuster. I know the drill.

T. S., Ashford.

ALWAYS check the policy small-print. The premium may seem small, but it's not worth it if it doesn't cover what you need.

H. N., London.

IT WOULD be more sensible to open another bank account and use it to save up for vet bills than to take out an insurance policy.

I. C., by email.

IN 1995, my cat was killed by a car so I claimed on my pet insurance. I was told to send a photo and a signed statement from my vet to prove the cat was dead.

B. C., by email.

PET insurance is just a scam. Firms usually stop paying out in full once an animal is eight years old, which is when it is more likely to need treatment.

C. R., Paris.

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*AER stands for the Annual Equivalent Rate and shows you what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year. This will enable you to compare more easily the return you can expect from your savings over time.

**Variable rate of interest means that the interest rate payable on your account can change and can move both up and down.

†Tax-free means that interest is not subject to income tax.

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Stick to switching

THERE has been no greater champion of the liberalisation of the energy market than Money Mail.

For decades, we have campaigned to break the stranglehold of the Big Six suppliers and boost competition so customers can get a better deal.

Time and again, we have reported how readers can save hundreds of pounds a year by giving lesser-known firms a chance.

Today, it may be time to concede that the race to compete on price is having some negative consequences.

As we report on Pages 40 and 45, many customers are at their wits' end after fighting for months to get their money back from small firms that have gone bust.

This section has spent years trying to cajole households into shopping around, but now I fear customers will become so frustrated they'll give up on switching altogether. This would

THE LAST WORD

By Victoria Bischoff
MONEY MAIL EDITOR



be a devastating outcome, as staying with the same supplier year after year means you could miss out on enormous savings.

It would be unfair to tar all small suppliers with the same brush. Many do a brilliant job, and without them forcing behemoths such as British Gas to compete for your custom, bills could sky-rocket.

So what should you do? Well, I switch energy provider every year and I admit that, up until now, I have been pretty cavalier when it comes to choosing supplier. My mantra was: 'Cheapest is best.'

Now, I'll be paying far more attention to how a firm's customer service is ranked by Citizens Advice. This is vital because high numbers of complaints and problems getting credit balances refunded are tell-tale signs that a supplier may be in trouble.

Watchdog Ofgem has promised to push up service standards and force new firms to pass stricter checks before they are allowed to take on customers. But it needs to move swiftly, before nervous households are driven back to the pricey Big Six suppliers.

Sharks tanked

IT IS a relief to learn that a gang of cold-calling sharks who conned elderly victims out of £425,000 in just five months are now off the streets — for a while, at least.

The four scammers, who called themselves the 'Wolves of Wind Street', were jailed on Monday for conspiring to defraud, in their own, charming words, 'pension-rich suckers'.

As Money Mail reported recently, the group had promised victims new boilers in return for an upfront fee of £299 or £399 under a government scheme that did not exist.

The gang, who chose their nickname because they spent much of their ill-gotten gains dining in the notorious Wind Street nightclub area of Swansea, South Wales, were stopped only after local trading standards intervened.

The trio of company directors were each jailed for three years and nine months. A fourth member of

staff was sentenced to 18 months. If it were up to me, I'd throw away the key.

In praise of AXA

HERE at Money Mail, we regularly hear from readers who feel let down by insurers. So it makes a nice change to print a positive tale.

Tony, from Dawlish, South Devon, says his travel insurer, AXA, went above and beyond the call of duty when his wife fell ill in India.

Following a stay in Agra, home to the Taj Mahal, the couple came down with food poisoning. Tony recovered, but his wife had to spend six days in hospital.

He writes: 'AXA covered all hospital and extra accommodation costs and took control of the situation, which was a relief. It also paid for first-class flights home and flew in caring Dr Singh Satvender to provide medical supervision on the journey home.'

Well done AXA!
v.bischoff@daily.co.uk

MONEYBEST BUYS



MORTGAGES

LENDER	RATE	DETAILS	DEPOSIT	FEE	CONTACT
TWO-YEAR FIXES					
Santander	1.54pc	to 02/07/21	25pc	£999	0800 100 802
Post Office	1.81pc	to 31/05/21	15pc	£495	0800 077 8033
Virgin Money	2.99pc	to 01/09/21	5pc	£0	0345 605 0500
FIVE-YEAR FIXES					
Barclays	1.83pc	to 31/07/24	40pc	£999	0333 202 7580
Yorkshire BS	2.1pc	to 30/06/24	15pc	£995	0345 166 9510
Coventry BS	2.25pc	to 30/06/24	10pc	£999	0800 121 8899
BASE-RATE TRACKERS					
Leeds BS	Base +0.98pc	to 31/05/21	25pc	£0	0345 045 4049
HSBC	Base +0.84pc	for two years	20pc	£999	0800 494 999
Nationwide	Base +1.39pc	for two years	10pc	£999	0800 302 010
BUY-TO-LET					
Post Office	1.93pc	to 31/05/21	25pc	£995	0800 077 8033
Leeds BS	2.15pc	to 31/07/24	40pc	£999	0345 045 4049
Virgin Money	3.73pc	to 01/09/24	20pc	£995	0345 605 0500

This week you should...

PREPARE for your summer break. Buy travel insurance as soon as possible so you are covered for cancellations or illness. Book cheaper airport parking in advance through firms such as Holiday

Extras (holidayextras.co.uk) and Looking4Parking (looking4.com). And buy your currency in the High Street or online, rather than being stung at the airport — try travelmoney.com



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CASHBACK & PERKS

Amex: 0800 032 7642. Tandem: 020 3370 0970

PROVIDER	CARD	APR	PERKS
American Express	Platinum Cashback	22.9pc	5pc cashback up to £100 in first 3 months
Tandem	Cashback Credit Card	18.9pc	0.5pc cashback on purchases

SPENDING

Virgin Money: 0800 389 2875. Sainsbury's Bank: 0808 540 5060

PROVIDER	CARD	INITIAL RATE	APR
Virgin Money	28-Month Purchase Credit Card	0pc for 28 months	19.9pc
Sainsbury's Bank	Dual Credit Card	0pc for 28 months	20.9pc

BALANCE TRANSFERS

Sainsbury's Bank: 0808 540 5060. HSBC: 03456 040 626

PROVIDER	CARD	BALANCE TRANSFER RATE	FEE
Sainsbury's Bank	29-month Balance Transfer Credit Card	0pc for 29 months	3pc
HSBC	28 Month Balance Transfer Credit Card	0pc for 28 months	1.4pc

... OUR PICK OF THE TOP DEALS



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ENGIE ■ Fixed Sept 21 v5 Paperless ■ To Sep 30, 2021 ANNUAL BILL £1,038 0800 280 8000 Based on national average usage	BRITISH GAS ■ Energy Plus Boiler Cover ■ Until April 30, 2020 ANNUAL BILL £982 0333 202 9802



CURRENT ACCOUNTS

MOSTLY IN THE BLACK

NATIONWIDE FLEXDIRECT
5pc on balances up to £2,500 for first 12 months
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TSB CLASSIC PLUS
5pc on balances up to £1,500
■ You must pay in £500 every month 0345 835 3844

BANK OF SCOTLAND
1.5pc variable
■ No yearly fee 0345 721 3141

MOSTLY IN THE RED

FIRST DIRECT 1ST ACCOUNT
0pc overdraft to £250
■ You must pay in £1,000 a month 03456 00 24 24

NATIONWIDE FLEXDIRECT
0pc overdraft for 12 months
■ No minimum pay-in each month 0800 30 20 10

Sources: L&C Mortgages, GoCompare, Energyhelpline, ONS inflation

CPI INFLATION +1.9pc RPI INFLATION +2.5pc HOUSE PRICES +1.7pc BASE RATE 0.75pc

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Compiled by Charles Legge

QUESTION Nestle is killing off Tooty Frooties – which other favourite childhood sweets have bitten the dust?

SPANGLES are often cited as Britain's most missed sweet. They were square, boiled sweets with a circular depression in the middle. They came in a variety of fruit-based flavours as well as some odd ones including orangeade, butterscotch and liquorice.

When Spangles were introduced to Britain by Mars in 1950, sweets were still on post-war rations. They were a big hit because they only needed one point from a ration book instead of the two required to buy most confectionery.

The cowboy Hopalong Cassidy (William Boyd) advertised Spangles with the catchphrase: 'Hoppy's favourite sweet.' They later had the slogan: 'The sweet way to go gay!' Despite their popularity, Spangles were discontinued in 1984.

A forgotten favourite was Fry's Five Centres. This was a segmented dark chocolate bar with five fondant flavours: orange, raspberry, lime, strawberry and pineapple. It was produced from 1934 to 1992.

Pacers, originally marketed as Opal Mints, were chewy spearmint sweets that were the sister product to Opal Fruits, today's Starburst. Originally, Pacers were white, but green stripes were later added. They disappeared in the mid-Eighties.

The Texan was a mighty chewy nougat and toffee bar. Discontinued in the Eighties, it was briefly reintroduced by Nestle in 2005 during a wave of confectionery related nostalgia.

I was one of the few people who loved Pyramint. This was a chunky triangle of chocolate filled with mint-flavoured fondant and tasted a bit like a warm mass of After Eights.

Justin Greer, Liverpool.

QUESTION Did the twilight sleep treatment result in pain-free childbirth?

TWILIGHT sleep, using a combination of morphine and scopolamine, a medication used to treat motion sickness and post-operative nausea and vomiting, was a birthing regimen created in 1908 by German obstetricians Carl Guss and

Bittersweet memories...



Picture: ALAMY

Going, going, gone: Tooty Frooties

Bernhardt Kronin. The method did not eliminate labour pains, but obliterated their memory after birth.

It was a brief craze in the U.S. when a group of wealthy American women went to Germany for their deliveries.

Their subsequent account in McClure's magazine in 1914 'evoked more response from readers than any other that the magazine had ever published'.

The women established the National Twilight Sleep Association (NTSA), an influential lobby group connecting feminism with access to pain-free childbirth. It ran a populist campaign in the Press in which it characterised childbirth as 'torture'.

The medical profession was castigated for not embracing the German method. When physicians pointed out the procedure was risky and could interfere with a newborn's breathing, the NTSA complained of their 'callous indifference' to women in labour.

Despite its popularity, twilight sleep had a number of serious side-effects. It could induce 'excitement, restlessness, hallucinations and delirium' in mothers, sometimes leading to self-harm.

Hospital staff had to strap the women to the operating table using a birthing jacket, which was disturbingly similar to a straitjacket.

The twilight sleep movement was short-lived. By the start of World War I, German ideas were increasingly viewed with suspicion in the U.S. More devastating

was the sad case of one of the NTSA's leading lights, Charlotte Carmody. After a successful twilight sleep birth in Freiburg, she spoke about her experience in churches and department stores across the U.S.

Tragically, in 1915 she died during a twilight sleep birth in a Brooklyn hospital. This high-profile casualty proved the end for the procedure in the U.S.

Phillipa Knowles, Oxford.

QUESTION What's the most unusual way in which a Lotto winner has chosen their numbers?

AMONG the many ways in which people choose numbers that they hope will bag them the jackpot, surely one of the most unusual would be to use the sequence of numbers of the previous lottery draw.

However, mathematically, any sequence of numbers has the same chance of being drawn as any other.

The draw in the Bulgarian lottery on Sunday, September 6, 2009, resulted in no winners matching the numbers 4, 15, 23, 24, 35 and 42. However, four days later on September 10, these numbers were drawn once more, though in a different order, and 18 people shared the jackpot of £84,600 — £4,700 each.

Lucky Dip tickets allocate the numbers randomly and there are complaints when there are sequential numbers.

Consider those people playing the American Florida Fantasy 5 lottery, which requires you to match five of 36 numbers. On Monday, March 21, 2011, the jackpot prize of just over \$200,000 was shared by the 47 ticket holders that had chosen 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Though Camelot does not comment in any detail on the numbers chosen by players of the UK Lotto game, each draw sees hundreds of people choosing the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Given that there are so many lottery games across the world and humans are excellent at spotting apparently meaningful patterns in number sequences, these coincidences will continue to emerge amid the random selections, providing amusement and frustration, depending on what numbers you choose. Good luck!

Don Trower, Braintree, Essex.

■ IS THERE a question to which you have always wanted to know the answer? Or do you know the answer to a question raised here? Send your questions and answers to: Charles Legge, Answers To Correspondents, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London, W8 5TT; fax them to 01952 780111 or email them to charles.legge@dailymail.co.uk. A selection will be published but we are not able to enter into individual correspondence.

TODAY'S RECIPE: Chicken stuffed with herby mascarpone

QUICK and tasty supper. Serves: 2.

Ingredients

3 tbsp mascarpone
1 tbsp rosemary, finely chopped
1 garlic clove, crushed
2 chicken breasts, skin on
4 slices prosciutto



Splash olive oil
Juice of half a lemon

Method

1. Heat the oven to 200c/fan 180c/gas 6. Mix the mascarpone with the rosemary, garlic and some seasoning. Place the chicken breasts on a board and lift, but don't detach, the skin. Put a spoonful of the mascarpone mix under the skin of each breast. Wrap two of the slices of prosciutto around each breast, as neatly and tightly as you can, to keep the filling enclosed.
2. Heat a non-stick frying pan, add olive oil and quickly brown chicken on both sides. Transfer to a roasting tin to finish off in the oven for 15 to 20 minutes. Check that the chicken is cooked through.
3. Add the lemon juice to the roasting tin and stir over heat, scraping off any crispy bits. Spoon juices over chicken. This dish can be served with potatoes and green beans.

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BRIDGE MASTERCLASS

North
♠ 106
♥ AKQ965
♦ 5
♣ AJ82

S N
1♣ 2♥
3♣ 4♣
4♦ ?

WHAT would you bid next in the above sequence?

THIS is the next stage of yesterday's bidding sequence. Do not make the mistake of thinking that South is showing a diamond suit by his last bid.

It is possible that he has four cards in the suit because of the previous auction.

However, his bid is primarily showing a first round control, i.e. an ace or void, and you can safely assume it is the ♦A.

It is a useful point to remember that once a trump suit has been agreed, the bid of a new suit is showing controls, not distribution.

You should bid 4♥, a fairly simple selection in the control-showing process.

PETER DONOVAN

QUESTIONS

Q: Which steam engine holds the speed record: Clun Castle or the A4 Pacific Mallard?

Mike McCusker, Southsea, Hants.

Q: Does Volkswagen sell more sausages than cars?

Jim Cotton, Walsall, W. Mids.

Q: Have any UK plants or animals been collected to extinction?

Jane Plower, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

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PETERBOROUGH

email: pboro@dailymail.co.uk

Smart pencils made me look a little daft

THE article about schools asking for parents to make donations (Mail) made me smile. While teaching in a local state secondary, I was informed at the beginning of the school year that there was no stationery budget allocated for my classes. So, I went out and bought exercise books and matching red pencils, on which it appeared to me there was a lovely white squiggly design. My pupils were delighted and my lessons a great success. The pencils went down a storm and many other pupils

asked if they could have one. A few weeks later, I was called in to the head teacher's office. Was I to be commended for my initiative in supplying my own stationery and the success of my classes? No. Had I read what was on the red pencils? No — it was just a pattern, wasn't it? No, it was the complete times table in miniature — and all of the recent maths tests had had a 100 per cent pass rate! Needless to say, my pencils were binned! But I did keep one as a souvenir.

Mrs L. Dawson,
Harlow, Essex.



Out of the mouths of babes

MY FOUR-YEAR-OLD grandson, Harris, walked into the bathroom just as I was applying my make-up. When I made the finishing touch of blotting my lipstick,

he stopped dead, looked at me strangely and asked: 'Granny, why are you kissing the toilet roll?' What could I say?

C. Simpson, Lochgelly, Fife.

Anagram

Parliamentary mix-ups
and fiendish betrayals

=

Hate, despair, as May and
MPs finally ruin Brexit

Tony Crafter,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Wordy Wise

STARTPHONE — helps novice users.
WORDLESS PHONE — strictly for talkers.
FLAP PHONES — perfect for panics.
MOBIKE PHONES — leather-covered specials.
ROCKET PHONE — makes the fastest connections.
DATTELLITE PHONE — love searchers' aid.

T. John Foster, Stafford.

One-line Philosophers

■ **PEOPLE** who turn to margarine for slimming have usually seen butter days.
Valerie Ashton, London N14.
■ **WHY** are there five syllables in the word monosyllabic?

A. Dean, Keighley, W. Yorks.

Your Jokes

I CAN see into the future — I have 2020 vision!
M. McCusker, Southsea, Hants.

Sign language



BIRD IS THE WORD: Are they serving up imported crows from Turkey?
D. Gilmour, Dunoon, Argyll.

Follow-up

FOLLOWING tales of mishaps (Peterborough), I was reminded of the time I worked for social services. As part of my routine, I would help people to bathe and make breakfast for them. One morning, I arrived at a flat and assisted the resident. Afterwards, I asked to sign her health folder to record what I had done. She said she didn't have one and had never been visited before, but would love to have me back. Then the penny dropped: I was in the wrong flat. What a laugh my office had, and so did the lovely lady. She had thoroughly enjoyed herself.

K. Evans, Sunderland.

Picture that!



PUG MUGSHOT: Looking hangdog after too many late-night operations at the Supervet surgery? Spotted in the TV guide of *The Press and Journal* by Neil D. Watson of Aberdeen.

Today's poem

MODERN LIVING

When leaving home and locking up,
I very often find
My neighbour doing just the same.
It seems we're of a mind
To go and do our shopping,
Or just have a change of scene.
And paths may cross again
when we
Return from where
we've been.

I give a cheery wave, a smile
'Hello there, how are you?
Yes, isn't it a lovely sky,
Almost cobalt blue.
The sun is bright, but oh,
that wind
Is strong and icy-cold.
I don't think I will stay out long
... Must be getting old.

I'm sure that I'll be back
by two,
So, some time after that,
Do pop round for a cuppa
And we'll have a proper chat.
'This conversation's in my head
It's what I'd like to say,
But reticence takes over, and
We each go on our way.

Tricia Sturgeon,
Mundesley, Norfolk.

Nursery Rhyme For Our Time

Here we come gathering
nuts in May,
Is a General Election on
its way?
Or a Brexit deal for
Theresa May,
After three years of coming
and going?

Here we go round the
mulberry bush,
With Westminster making it
all such a fuss,
Will the Prime Minister give it
just one more push,
And give us a break from
not knowing?

Mrs Margaret Mattinson,
Sherburn in Elmet, N. Yorks.

LETTERS

Frank about drugs

TRAGICALLY, a 13-year-old boy has died after taking ecstasy (Mail).

The Government should be making every effort to publicise the dangers posed by this drug, especially to children. It is much too often fatal.

Instead, on the Government's revamped Talk to Frank website it gives 'harm reduction' advice about how to dabble in this banned drug.

Acceptance of drug-taking by young people as a normal event by giving tips for 'safer use' could be regarded as aiding and abetting a criminal offence. Ecstasy is a random killer. Prevention, which has been shown to work, must be the aim.

MARY BRETT,
Cannabis Skunk Sense,
Amersham, Bucks.

Advice to MPs

SOME notes for all politicians: If you don't want the answer, don't ask the question. In a two-horse race, there is one winner and one loser. Get over it. They won't re-run the Masters because Tiger Woods won by only one shot.

You were elected based on your manifesto — I suggest you go and read it. You were chosen to represent the people of this country. We said we want to leave the EU; your job is to make that happen. Your personal views should be put to one side. Just get on with it, please.

Miss A. L. MENZIES,
Felpham, W. Sussex.

Soft touch

WHY are the police allowing the Extinction Rebellion protesters to bring the capital to a standstill?

It would appear this group only needs to announce its intentions, and then the police merely warns the law-abiding public that their lives may be disrupted. Surely the planned protests count as civil disobedience and should be dealt with robustly by the authorities?

The protesters should do their research before taking to the streets. Britain emits an insignificant amount of CO₂ compared to a country such as China.

P. SENIOR, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Proper parenting

WHEN I was a schoolboy, my mum got out of bed every morning to prepare breakfast for me and my brothers. School was for learning and there were no breakfast clubs.

Before we went to primary school, we were not only potty-trained, but knew how to behave.

We grew up to be happy and well-adjusted people who have never asked anyone, let alone teachers, to change our own children's nappies.

BRIAN DEAN, Cardiff.

Landlord blues

I AM a residential landlord who is concerned about the announcement of a major housing shake-up (Mail).

The 1988 Housing Act gave would-be landlords the guarantee of possession. Before then, there were very few private rentals. Now we have more than ten million, which shows good legislation benefits everyone.

Why does the Government want to take a step backwards? If I am a tenant and enter into an agreement for two years, why should I not be expected to move out after the contract ends?

This attack on private landlords will only result in a reduced number of properties available for letting.

PAUL PEARSON, address supplied.

Write to: Daily Mail Letters,
2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT
email: letters@dailymail.co.uk

I'M IN the process of evicting a tenant who has not paid rent for three months.

After this experience, I plan to sell the property, thus adding to the lack of private rental properties.

The Government should think through the implications before changing the law.

HENRY PARTRIDGE, York.

THE Government says no-fault evictions over tenancy agreements are unfair. However, last week it trumpeted no-fault divorce plans.

J. LONGSTAFF, Buxted, E. Sussex.

A charge too far

MAY I congratulate London mayor Sadiq Khan on his new ultra-low emission zone charges, which are on top of the congestion charge.

He failed to get Oxford Street changed into a bus-free zone, but he soldiers on.

Our tourist trade will be dreadfully affected by the cost of driving in London, and many already struggling shops will close.

But that doesn't matter, because the empty shops can be turned into new homes, where people will have to live on benefits because there is no longer any work for them in the area. And that is called politics.

Mrs M. DUBOU, London NW11.

Damaged by divorce

HOW sad that the Government is to introduce quickie divorce. I have been married for 55 years, and all my seven daughters have been married for 15 to 30 years.

If you asked us what makes a successful marriage, we'd say: 'Accept that no one's perfect. There's only one captain of a ship. Marriage takes two good givers. Treat him like a king and he will treat you like a queen.'

Don't go into a marriage looking for what you can get out of it, but what you can put in. You have to change if you want it to work. Marriage is the best way for children to have a secure upbringing. There's no problem that can't be solved, even adultery.

Women I know who have divorced say it was the worst mistake they ever made. They have been left on their own to bring up their children while also having to work. They feel so lonely and the effect it's had on their children is devastating.

GILLIAN MILLER,
Rochester, Kent.

Go for it

I APPLAUD university graduates who achieve their career goals (Letters), but am often berated by my daughter for describing my progress in life with the disclaimer: 'Despite leaving school with nowt.'

I cite my aspirations and natural skills as the forces behind my relative success in academic and business certification 40 years after leaving school. Go for it, I say — with or without a university degree.

PHILIP CLARK, Chesham, Bucks.

Uneasy listening

DRIVETIME on Radio 2 with Simon Mayo used to be enjoyable easy listening, whether you were on your way home from work or preparing the evening meal.

We now have Sara Cox, who introduces the show with: 'Ladies and gentlemen, we 'ave some great music...' When one of her listeners phones in, they are greeted with: 'How are yer?'

Radio 2 listeners don't deserve this. How can people argue it is all right to not talk proper (Letters)?

D. N. HUGHES, Worthing, W. Sussex.

CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF A LOVED ONE

HAVE you lost a relative or friend in recent months whose life you'd like to celebrate? Our column on Friday's letters page tells the stories of ordinary people who lived extraordinary

lives. Email a 350-word tribute to: lives@dailymail.co.uk or write to: Extraordinary Lives, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT. Please include a contact phone number.

■ SEND your contributions to Peterborough, Daily Mail Letters, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT

Oh, Miss Jones... they've left us off the list of TV greats



Genius: Frances de la Tour and Leonard Rossiter in *Rising Damp*

IN THE list of the all-time greatest British comedy sitcoms (Mail), I was astounded no mention was made of the fabulous *Rising Damp*. The 28 episodes of this ITV show, written by Eric Chappell and aired between 1974 and 1978, were recorded at Yorkshire Television in Leeds. It's still hilarious today, albeit not as politically correct in these modern times as one would hope for. The starring role went to the genius of comic timing, Leonard Rossiter. His interpretation of the landlord of not so salubrious bedsits was a joy to behold. Despite the peeling wallpaper and tacky furniture, Rigsby thought his rooms were on a par with the Hilton. In his battered cardigans and trousers shiny with age, he was in his element

imparting his knowledge on any given subject, particularly his expertise with the female gender, to the hapless Alan (Richard Beckinsale). Another male tenant Philip (Don Warrington) was well-educated and relished in winding up his landlord. Rigsby tried hard to win the heart of his tenant Miss Jones (Frances de la Tour), but with no luck. The casting was fabulous, the background research was meticulous and the writing was some of the best on TV, then and now. Even Rigsby's cat Vienna had a starring role. It was cleverly written and acted, providing us with a useful piece of social history. It is still my favourite comedy show.

Mrs JANET E. LITTLEWOOD, Redditch, Worcs.

I WAS astonished by the omission of *Steptoe And Son* from the Top 20 sitcoms list. I would have it in equal first place with *Fawlty Towers*. I would also make a case for *The Liver Birds*, *Bread*, *Hancock's Half Hour*, *Till Death Us Do Part*, *One Foot In The Grave*, *Citizen Smith*, *Last Of The Summer Wine*, *Open All Hours*, *Rising Damp*, *On The Buses* and *The Army Game*. Can I assume that most of the panel of judges have never seen anything in black and white?

ALAN SMITH, Barnstaple, Devon.

THE glaring omission from the list of top sitcoms is *Hancock's Half Hour*. Its writers Ray Galton and Alan Simpson virtually invented the sitcom.

CLIVE WHICHELOW, London SW19.

Life's a gas

IT DOESN'T surprise me that British Gas can pay its boss £2.4million (Mail), when millions of people like me work for the firm for free.

We provide meter readings by email and pay over the internet. The meter reader has been made redundant.

British Gas should reduce our bills in recognition of the work we do on its behalf.

NORMAN HEATH, Ormskirk, Lancs.

EU down the pan

DO ALL those youngsters and Remainers who want to stay in the EU realise Europe is going down the pan?

The average unemployment rate is twice that of the UK. In France, unemployment among

under-25s is double the UK's figure, and three times or more in Spain, Italy and Greece.

ALEXANDER MORGAN, Wymondham, Norfolk.

THE economy is improving and things are looking good. MPs have been tied up in Brexit for several months, and have not worried about the rest of the issues facing the

country. So why do we need to pay them so much when we seem to run ourselves?

ERIC ROBERTS, Newquay, Cornwall.

Gardener's delight

I WAS intrigued by the high-tech ways to grow tomatoes (Femail). My office faced south and the sun beat

through the windows from 9am until 5pm. After I said 'It's so hot I could grow tomatoes!', a colleague came in with two little plants.

They grew like triflids on the windowsill and I had to put them in big pots on the floor.

They nearly took over the office, but we all enjoyed a harvest of delicious toms.

SUSAN FIELD, Oxhey, Herts.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

WIN our Letter Of The Week Magic Mug, courtesy of Printer Pix. These reveal our Daily Mail Letter Of The Week design when hot. To create personalised photo gifts (see example, right), visit printerpix.co.uk. The Letters Editor will announce the Letter Of The Week each Friday. Write to: Daily Mail, Letters, 2 Derry Street, Kensington, London, W8 5TT, email letters@dailyemail.co.uk or fax on

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020 7937 7493, including your full postal address and telephone number.



DEBATE

Should Shamima Begum be granted legal aid?

HOW disgusting that Shamima Begum has been granted legal aid to challenge the removal of her citizenship (Mail). It is astonishing taxpayers have to fund such cases, with solicitors the beneficiaries. We're told Ms Begum's case is complex — which I challenge — and could take years to resolve. Legal aid is refused to ordinary families, but it seems there is always enough to defend terrorists. The solicitors who specialise in these cases must be rubbing their hands as the gravy train rolls on.

IAN VERDON, Watford, Herts.

I HOPE no one is fooled by the claim Ms Begum is getting money to fight her case, as it is the ambulance-chasing lawyers who will get the cash.

H. McGEE, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex.

I CAN'T get worked up about the decision to grant the Jihadi bride legal aid, as our legal system is so pathetic that this was always on the cards. I expect Julian Assange will be next in line.

S. H. BROUGH, Egremont, Cumbria.

HOW does Shamima Begum qualify for legal aid when she has been stripped of her British citizenship?

C. GOODALL, Portsmouth.

THOSE who have granted legal aid to Ms Begum should be made to pay it from their own pockets.

D. W. G. HANNS, Fareham, Hants.

GIVE Ms Begum back her passport. The courts will eventually allow this, so act now and stop a fortune in fees going to Yuman Rites shysters.

MARTIN SHARP, London SE2.

SHOULD Shamima Begum be allowed to return to the UK? I know, let's have a referendum.

MICK WHEELER, Writtle, Essex.

TELL Ms Begum there's a spare room in the Ecuadorian Embassy.

Name and address supplied.

Straight to the POINT



■ I'M CONFUSED about which candidate to vote for in the European elections now we've adopted the second-past-the-post system.

RICHARD COLLINS, Peterborough, Cambs.

■ THE issue of whether we leave the EU or not pales into insignificance compared to the prospect of Darcey leaving Strictly.

PETER MALLER, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.

■ DEFINITION of infinity: Brexit.

D. ARNOTT, Taunton, Devon.

■ ZOE BALL knows only one word — amazing. Her radio show most certainly isn't.

HELEN PENNEY, Longborough, Glos.

■ WITH MPs on holiday it's a good time to change the locks on the Houses of Parliament.

PETE DICKERSON, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

■ LIKE Joan Collins, a vanity mirror caused a fire in my home. Concave mirrors should be sold with a warning sticker.

MICHAEL J. PRITCHARD, Penn, Bucks.

■ DAVID LAMMY proves there is no shortage of empty vessels that make the most noise in the Labour Party.

JOHN EVANS, Wokingham, Berks.

■ CALL someone a horse? Neigh!

E. BARNES, Birmingham.

■ BREXIT extended until October 31. Do we collect £200 when passing Go?

MUNRO STARR, Quorn, Leics.

■ MY BREXIT song (Letters) is Send In The Clowns. Oh, sorry, they are already in the House of Commons.

B. McMAHON, Newton Abbot, Devon.

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MODERN SHOPPING**Supermarket Secrets, 8pm, BBC1**

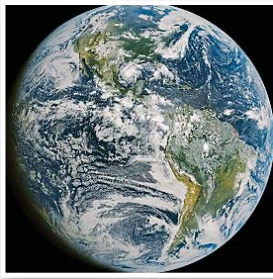
JUST like TV, our shopping is increasingly available 'on demand'. This episode looks at how retailers are responding to this trend. From the robots picking our online orders to the farm growing 300 million lettuces a year to meet our needs for year-round salad. Also, how checkout queues could be a thing of the past.

VIEW FROM ABOVE**Earth From Space, 9pm, BBC1**

THIS stunning new series provides an awe-inspiring new perspective on the natural world – and the threats it faces. Satellite cameras in space give conservationists access to some of the world's most remote, hostile environments. From Africa to Antarctica, clues spotted from space lead to extraordinary discoveries.

POWER BROKER**MotherFatherSon, 9pm, BBC2**

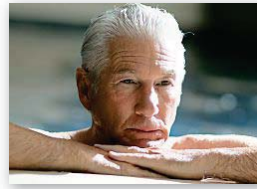
THE Prime Minister's son is dead and the

**PICK OF THE DAY****CHIMERICA, 9PM, CH4**

THIS gripping four-part thriller opens in 1989 in Beijing, China, where a plucky American teen captures images of the protests in Tiananmen Square – and the famous scene of a lone man defying the tanks that rolled towards him. Almost three decades later, that plucky

country is tearing itself

apart as we reach the penultimate part of Tom Rob Smith's slow-burning drama. And, at the centre of it all is manipulative media mogul Max (Richard Gere, pictured), who is under attack



from all sides, but showing no signs of cracking just yet.

WHAT'S IN STORE?

Inside John Lewis: Profits & Problems, 9pm, Ch5

WHILE many other High Street retailers have

American teen is now a jaded photojournalist (Alessandro Nivola, pictured), whose career is in tatters. Can finding the 'Tank Man' alive save his reputation? Based on a play by Lucy Kirkwood, and with Sophie Okonedo and F. Murray Abraham among the supporting cast, this story of personal redemption plays out on a grand, international political stage.



faltered in recent years, John Lewis has managed to buck the trend, buoyed by its reputation for customer service. This episode explores the firm's 150-year history, goes behind the scenes of its flagship London store on Oxford Street, and asks what the future holds for the company and its loyal partners.

BBC 1

- 6.00 Breakfast** (HD)
9.15 Animal Park Easter Special (R,HD)
10.00 Homes Under the Hammer (R,HD)
11.00 The Sheriffs Are Coming (R,HD)
 The sheriffs visit an insurance company that failed to pay out.
11.45 Close Calls: On Camera (HD)
 A mother's life hangs in the balance after she suffers a cardiac arrest.
12.15 Bargain Hunt (AD,R,HD) From Newbury Racecourse in Berkshire.
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather (HD)
1.30 BBC Regional News; Weather
1.45 Doctors (AD,HD) Karen finds herself taking on more than expected.
2.15 Curiosity (HD) Julia and Kevin from Cambridgeshire take on Edana and Jane from Yorkshire.
3.00 Escape to the Country (AD,R,HD)
 A couple looking for their ideal rural retreat in the East Midlands.
3.45 Home Is Where the Art Is (AD,HD)
 Nick Knowles challenges three artists in Cheshire to create a piece for a mystery buyer.
4.30 The Repair Shop (HD) The team restore a hand-carved model Spitfire and a leather pouffe.
5.15 Pointless (HD) Quiz show.
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (HD)
6.30 BBC Regional News; Weather
6.55 Party Election Broadcast (R,HD)
 By the Labour Party.

BBC 2

- 6.30 The Repair Shop** (R,HD)
7.15 Home Is Where the Art Is (R,HD)
8.00 Mary Berry's Quick Cooking (AD,BSL,R) Mary helps the team in the galley of HMS Defender.
8.30 Gardeners' World (BSL,R)
9.00 BBC News at 9 (HD)
10.00 Victoria Derbyshire (HD)
11.00 BBC Newsroom Live (HD)
1.00 The Boss (R,HD) Quiz show.
1.45 Back in Time for Dinner (AD,R,HD)
 The Robshaws get to grips with the home life of the Seventies.
2.45 Back in Time for Dinner (AD,R,HD)
 The family learn about the culinary treats and trends of the Eighties.
3.45 The Hairy Builder (AD,R,HD) Dave Myers helps to restore an art deco monastery in North Yorkshire.
4.15 The Hairy Builder (AD,R,HD)
 Dave Myers visits the 18th-century Friars Mill in Leicestershire.
4.45 Eggheads (R,HD) Quiz show, hosted by Jeremy Vine.
5.15 Flog It! (R,HD) The team visit Gloucester Cathedral.
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games (R,HD) Beattie Edmondson, Amol Rajan, Gaby Roslin and Hugh Dennis test their general knowledge skills.
6.30 Island Medics (R,HD) A look behind the scenes at the Gilbert Bain Hospital in Lerwick.

ITV

- 6.00 Good Morning Britain** (HD)
8.30 Lorraine (HD) Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news.
9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show (R,HD)
10.30 This Morning (HD) Another mix of celebrity chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather.
12.30 Loose Women (HD) Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring celebrity interviews.
1.30 News; Weather (HD)
1.55 Regional News; Weather (HD)
2.00 Judge Rinder (HD) Cameras follow criminal barrister Robert Rinder as he takes on real-life cases in a studio courtroom.
3.00 Tenable (R,HD) A team of five family members from Northumberland answer questions about top-ten lists from the realms of pop culture and general knowledge. Quiz, hosted by Warwick Davis; Regional Weather
4.00 Tipping Point (HD) Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard.
5.00 The Chase (HD) Norman, Tom, Elaine and Nancy work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser.
6.00 Regional News; Weather (HD)
6.25 Party Election Broadcast (HD)
 By the Labour Party.
6.30 News; Weather (HD)
7.00 Emmerdale (AD,HD) Priya feels pushed out by Aiesha, and Harriet makes a disturbing discovery.
7.30 Coronation Street (AD,HD)
 Gary meets a familiar face on his first day collecting debts.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.25 Cheers** (R,HD)
6.55 Cheers (R,HD)
7.20 Cheers (R,HD)
7.45 Frasier (R)
8.10 Frasier (R)
8.40 Frasier (R)
9.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (R)
9.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (R)
10.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) An Irish pub in New York.
11.05 Car SOS (AD,R,HD)
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary (HD)
12.05 Come Dine with Me (R,HD)
1.05 Escape to the Chateau: DIY (AD,R,HD) Paul and Karen rent out their chateau as a holiday gite.
2.10 Countdown (HD) With Paul Zenon.
3.00 A Place in the Sun (R,HD) Jonnie Irwin helps a Hull man to find his dream property in Huelva, Spain.
4.00 A New Life in the Sun (HD)
 Inspectors descend on a Shropshire family's treehouse in France.
5.00 Four in a Bed (HD) The third visit of the week takes place at The Black Boy Hotel in Sudbury.
5.30 Extreme Cake Makers (HD)
 Bakers Phil and Christine take on a very unusual commission.
6.00 The Simpsons (AD,R) Lisa gets her own television show.
6.30 Hollyoaks (AD,R,HD) Juliet plants doubts in Brooke's mind.

7 PM**8 PM****9 PM****10 PM****11 PM****12 MNT**

- 7.00 The One Show** (HD) Matt Baker and Alex Jones host the magazine show, with stories of interest from around the UK, plus celebrity guests in the studio.

- 8.00 Supermarket Secrets** (AD,HD)
PICK Examining how supermarkets are fighting to bring consumers their food on demand. See Critics' Choice.

- 9.00 Earth from Space** (AD,HD)
PICK New series. Cameras in space tell stories of life on our planet from a brand-new perspective. See Critics' Choice.

- 10.00 BBC News at Ten** (HD)
10.25 BBC Regional News (Followed by Weather) (Followed by National Lottery Update)
10.35 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (HD) The make-up artists battle for a place in the final.

- 11.35 A Question of Sport** (R,HD)
 A round-up of the best moments from the latest series of the light-hearted quiz, hosted by Sue Barker.

- 12.05 Celebrity Painting Challenge** (AD,R,HD) The VIP artists dabble in digital painting before tackling a cityscape of London. **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead (HD) **1.10** BBC News (HD)

- 7.00 Antiques Road Trip** (HD)
 Antiques experts travel around the UK searching for treasures and competing to make the most money at auction.

- 8.00 Great British Menu** (HD)
 Gordon Jones, Lorna McNee and Ben Reade make their way to the kitchen for the Scotland heats, preparing their starters and fish courses.

- 9.00 MotherFatherSon** (AD,HD)
PICK Kathryn must decide whether to make a huge sacrifice for the sake of exposing the truth. See Critics' Choice.

- 10.00 Island of Dreams** (R,HD) One-off comedy, starring Harry Enfield as Richard Branson, with Samantha Spiro, Morgana Robinson, Al Murray and Jamie Demetriou.
10.30 Newsnight (HD)
 (Followed by Weather)

- 11.15 Stephen: The Murder That Changed a Nation** (AD,R,HD)
 Documentary examining the 1993 death of Stephen Lawrence, beginning with a look at events leading up to his murder and the police investigation that followed.

- 12.15 DIY SOS: The Big Build** (AD,BSL,R,HD) The team travel to Hesse, East Yorkshire, to help a man left paralysed due to a spinal cord injury. **1.15** Race Across the World (AD,BSL,R,HD) The teams head to Baku in Azerbaijan. **2.15** This Is BBC2

- 8.00 Britain's Brightest Family** (HD)
 Two families compete in the third round of the quarter-finals.
8.30 Coronation Street (AD,HD)
 Sarah fears Gary will be implicated in the roof sabotage.

- 9.00 The Bay** (AD,HD) A confession to Lisa shines a possible new light on Dylan's killer. Meanwhile, Abbie has a terrifying experience with some local addicts.

- 10.00 News** (HD) (Followed by Weather)
10.30 Regional News (HD)
 (Followed by Weather)
10.45 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport (AD,R,HD) Terminal 5 receives a very special visitor.

- 11.10 La Liga Highlights** (HD) A round-up of the latest matches in the Spanish top flight, including Huesca v Barcelona, Atletico Madrid v Celta Vigo and Leganes v Real Madrid.

- 12.10 British Touring Car Championship Highlights** (HD) Round one at Brands Hatch Indy Circuit. **1.25** Jackpot247 (HD) **3.00** Lethal Weapon (AD,BSL,R,HD) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen (HD) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (BSL,R,HD)

- 8.00 Location, Location, Location** (HD) New series. Kirstie Allsopp helps Rachael and Mark in Woking to search for a new home, while Phil heads to Guildford to assist Indu and Jason in their property search.

- 9.00 Chimerica** (AD,HD) New series. Drama about a photojournalist accused of doctoring one of his award-winning photographs. See Pick of the Day.

- 10.00 Gogglebox** (AD,R,HD) Capturing the households' instant reactions to programmes including *Our Planet*, *This Morning*, *Britain's Got Talent*, *Line of Duty*, *Blind Date* and *24 Hours in Police Custody*.

- 11.05 First Dates** (AD,R,HD) Return of the restaurant-based dating show, hosted by Fred Sirieix. Participants include energetic 32-year-old owl sanctuary volunteer Krystal.

- 12.10 The Great British School Swap** (AD,R,HD) **1.05** FILM: *Love, Rosie* (2014) (15) ♦ (AD,BSL,HD) See Critics' Choice. **2.50** Coast vs Country (R,HD) **3.45** French Collection (R,HD) **4.35** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures (R,HD) **4.55** The £100k Drop (R,HD) **5.50** Countdown (R,HD)

(R) Repeat. (HD) High Definition. (AD) Audio Description. (b/w) Not in colour. (BSL) British Sign Language.

Family viewing

Generally suitable for all

Caution recommended

FILM CHOICES

Murder, She Baked: Just Desserts, 2.20pm, Ch5
WHO knew baking could be such a dangerous business? During the semi-finals of the Eden Lake Bake-Off, one of the judges is bumped off, leaving professional baker and amateur sleuth Hannah (Alison Sweeney) with another mystery to chew on.

Love, Rosie, 1.05am, Ch4
BRITISH romcom starring Lily Collins (pictured) and Sam Claflin as best friends Rosie and Alex, who are clearly meant for each other, but who take their time – virtually a lifetime, in fact – to realise it. As the missed opportunities to get together pile up, they both become entangled with other people.



CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig (R) **6.05** Peppa Pig (R) **6.10** Meet the Hedgehogs (R,HD) **6.15** Wissper (R,HD) **6.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective (R,HD) **6.45** Fireman Sam (R,HD) **6.55** Thomas & Friends (R,HD) **7.05** Shane the Chef (R,HD) **7.20** Peppa Pig (R) **7.30** Peppa Pig (R,HD) **7.35** Top Wing (R,HD) **7.55** Paw Patrol (R,HD) **8.05** Digby Dragon (HD) **8.20** Little Princess (R) **8.35** Shimmer and Shine (R,HD) **8.55** Floogals (R,HD) **9.10** Sunny Bunnies (R,HD) **9.15** **Jeremy Vine** (HD) **11.15** **Traffic Cops** (R,HD) **12.10** **5 News Lunchtime** (R,HD) **12.15** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** (R,HD) A phone shop has a huge debt. **1.10** **Access** (HD) **1.15** **Home and Away** (AD,HD) **1.45** **Neighbours** (AD,HD) **2.20** **Murder, She Baked: Just Desserts** (2017) (PG) ● (HD) Mystery, starring Alison Sweeney and Barbara Niven. See Critics' Choice. **4.00** **Friends** (R,HD) **4.30** **Friends** (R,HD) **5.00** **5 News** (HD) **5.30** **Neighbours** (AD,R,HD) Mark launches an investigation into the identity of the driver who almost killed Susan and Imogen. **6.00** **Home and Away** (AD,R,HD) Dean breaks into the mailbox to retrieve the letter. **6.30** **5 News Tonight** (HD) **7.00** **Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh** (R,HD) Alan visits Cragside, a Victorian estate in Northumberland and the most innovative property in the National Trust's collection. (Followed by 5 News Update) **8.00** **GPs: Behind Closed Doors** (AD,HD) Dr Akbani helps two daughters to deal with a potentially life-threatening hereditary illness, and another patient is treated for severe back pain. (Followed by 5 News Update) **9.00** **Inside John Lewis: Profits & Problems** (HD) Revealing documentary going behind the scenes of the British institution. See Critics' Choice. **10.00** **James Bulger: The New Revelations** (R,HD) Looking at fresh evidence in the case of the toddler who was kidnapped in 1993 from a shopping centre and murdered by ten-year-olds Robert Thompson and Jon Venables. **11.05** **Britain's Cocaine Epidemic** (R,HD) Ordinary people who use or supply cocaine, including students ordering the drug over the internet and members of the Eighties party generation who continue to use. **12.05** **Police Interceptors** (R,HD) **1.00** Teleshopping (HD) **3.00** **Access** (HD) **3.10** Wentworth Prison (AD,R,HD) **4.00** Cruising with Jane McDonald (BSL,R,HD) **4.45** House Doctor (BSL,R) **5.10** Great Artists (BSL,R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS (BSL,R)

▲ Particularly liable to offend

Who's the killer in a dotty thriller: Dr Vampire or the Bride of Dracula?

MAYBE it's spring-time madness, or maybe the Brexit shambles has driven the entire country round the twist, but most of the current crop of drama is simply nuts.

Kate Beckinsale is running around central Africa, dodging exploding cars in *The Widow* as she searches for a husband who likes to do his travelling inside a wooden crate. Morven Christie is a police-woman in *The Bay*, so busy having drunken quickies with murder suspects that she can't see her own children are feral delinquents.

But these daft thrillers are positively sane, compared to the delirium of *Trust Me* (BBC1) — a hospital whodunit starring John Hannah as a consultant so creepy that he ought to be wearing a silk cape and fangs.

Alfred Enoch, who grew up playing a student wizard in the background of the Harry Potter movies, is Corporal Jamie McCain. He's been flown home after an ambush Somewhere Foreign wiped out his platoon and left him paralysed.

Inevitably, a murder mystery starring a bedbound sleuth is going to be a bit static, but that wasn't a problem for Michael Gambon in *The Singing Detective*.

Sadly, there's no classic big band soundtrack here, just a lot of ominous electronic music to

GRITTY VIEWING OF THE NIGHT: Ben Fogle was in Peru on New Lives In The Wild (C5), at a place called Paracas which means 'raining sand'. The stuff got everywhere — in food, bedding, hair, the lot. By the look on Ben's face, it was in his undies too.

accompany Jamie's flashbacks and nightmares.

In between bedside interrogations by the military police, Jamie is pestered by fellow inmate Danny, a conspiracy theorist.

Danny is convinced that one of the medical staff is murdering patients. He has no evidence for this, except that everyone keeps dying. You really can't miss it, because the nurses keep carting huge plastic bodybags away.

Who is the killer? Dr Vampire? His lover, Nurse Bride of Dracula (Ashley Jensen)? Or troubled junior medic Dr Pillpopper (Katie Clarkson-Hill)? Surely it's not her boyfriend, long-suffering Kind McHunky (Richard Rankin)?

Whoever it is, they've got it in for wheelchair-user Danny. He's only in hospital while his flat is being redecorated. Tragically, before the second coat of emulsion is dry, Danny has been stuffed into a body bag.

Realising he was safer being shot at, Jamie has to get out of bed. This involves stabbing himself in the leg, to get an adrenaline rush, and then hauling himself round the ward on his elbows. Whether that

WELSH TV VARIATIONS

BBC1: 1.30pm BBC Wales Today; Weather. **6.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather. **10.25** BBC Wales Today; Weather.
ITV: 8.00pm Coast & Country. Andrew Price joins fishermen along the River Teifi, one of Wales' longest rivers, and Ruth Wignall heads out on a boat to see the wildlife in Cardigan Bay. **10.45** Britain's Brightest Family. Having made it through to the quarter-finals, two families go head to head for a place in the semi-finals.
S4C: 6.00am Cyw. **12noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd. **12.05** Y Dref Gymreig. **12.30** Clusuron Cefn Gwlad — Y Preseli: Gwanwyn. **1.30** Her yr Hinsawdd. **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd. **2.05** Prynhawn Da. **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd. **3.05** Y Ras. **3.30** Y Tychwyr gyda Iolo Williams. **4.00** Awr Fawr. **5.00** Stwnsh. **6.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd. **6.05** Pobol y Rhondla. **6.30** Cegin Bryn: Tŷr a Mor. **7.00** Heno. **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. **8.25** Rhannu. **9.00** Newyddion 9 a'r Tywydd. **9.30** Ar Werth. **10.00** Mwy o Sgorio. **10.30** Ffit Cymru. **11.30** Galw Nain Nain Nain.



CHRISTOPHER STEVENS LAST NIGHT'S TV

Trust Me ★★★☆☆ The Great British School Swap ☆☆☆☆☆

makes any medical sense, I have no idea (though I have my suspicions) — but I'm quite sure it's going to get a lot madder over the next three episodes.

At least it was harmless fun. That can't be said of the venal **Great British School Swap** (C4), a hateful exercise in stirring up bigotry. Under the pretence of copying a U.S. experiment, the

producers sent 15 white pupils from Tamworth to a school in nearby Birmingham, and put them in a classroom with 15 pupils from Asian backgrounds. Then they were encouraged to treat each other like dangerous alien species.

In case the heavily scripted set-ups didn't provoke enough controversy, the 13-year-olds

were given vile exercises such as compiling lists of racist insults and stereotypes. Their parents were encouraged to get in on the act too.

To claim that Britain has ever been racially segregated, or that some kind of apartheid operates in the West Midlands, is as vicious as it is divisive and dishonest.

As if this wasn't manipulative enough, Channel 4 executives included a child (just 13, remember) called Lucas, who identified as a transgender female. The Asian children were encouraged to bait Lucas mercilessly, while the white pupils rolled their eyes.

The whole business was irresponsible, nasty-minded, cruel, pointless and shameful.

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ONE-DAY CRICKET**Kent v Hampshire, 12.30pm, Sky Cricket & Main Event**

COVERAGE of the One Day Cup starts with a rerun of 2018's final, when Rilee Rossouw's 125 helped Hampshire to the title.

FAIRYTALE FANTASY**Lu Over The Wall, 3.20pm, Sky Premiere**

JAPANESE animation about a young boy called Kai who befriends Lu, a 'ningyo' or mermaid. Lu joins his band and helps him to find his feet in warm, fluffy style.

FOOTBALL**Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur, 7pm, BT Sport 2**

IN THE second of three meetings between the sides in 11 days, Spurs take a 1-0 advantage to the Etihad as they try to reach their first Champions League semi-final. Porto v Liverpool is on BT Sport 3.

FUNNY FILM**The Festival, Amazon Prime**

THE Inbetweeners' Joe Thomas stars in a knockabout comedy that has the same tone as the hit sitcom and follows Nick (Thomas) to a festival as he tries to get over a break-up.

ON THE STREETS**Rich Kids Go Homeless, 9pm, 5Star**

SELF-MADE man Kieren is 23 and is determined to prove that all the homeless need to get off the streets is a bit of entrepreneurial zeal. In this new series, he spends three nights

Satellite choice

sleeping rough in London, but his money-making plans don't survive his first contact with reality.

GOOD AS NEW**Salvage Hunters: The Restorers, 9pm, Quest**

A NEW series with Drew Pritchard and the experts who restore the curios he finds. Here, master leather worker Martin endeavours to restore a Victorian dentist's chair, which looks like something out of a horror film but could fetch four times what Drew paid for it (£500) after a restoration.

HISTORIC ENCOUNTER**Urban Myths, 9pm, Sky Arts**

SKY'S comedy has a lot of fun dramatising the time Donald Trump invited the artist Andy Warhol

to judge a cheerleading contest. Anthony Atamanuik is merciless



in his portrayal of Trump, who disgusts all around him – but only Warhol (Jack McBrayer, pictured below with Atamanuik) calls the tycoon out on his behaviour.

UFO SECRETS**Project Blue Book, 9pm, Syfy**

IN THIS atmospheric drama set at the height of the Cold War, Aidan Gillen is scientist Dr J. Allen Hynek, brought in to debunk UFO sightings. In episode four, a bizarre UFO encounter with an airliner leads Hynek to a top-secret programme involving former Nazi scientists.

FREEVIEW MOVIE**Eddie The Eagle, 9pm, Film4**

FACT-BASED underdog tale starring Taron Egerton (pictured) as Michael 'Eddie the Eagle' Edwards, who is determined to qualify as a ski jumper for the 1988 Olympic Games. The fact that he has limited cash, few opportunities to practise and isn't very good certainly won't hold him back.

**POLITICS COMEDY****Veep, 10.10pm, Sky Atlantic**

NO ONE is less well-qualified for the White House than the bone-headed Jonah, which is why, by the end of this brutal U.S. political satire, he may well end up as President. Attempting to report on the race is Mike McClintock, now trying to be down with the kids at Buzzfeed.

Time	BBC 4	E4	ITV2
	9	28	6
7.00pm	Beyond 100 Days News and analysis from Washington DC and London; Weather	Hollyoaks Sienna plans to trick Laurie into confessing by secretly recording him	6.00 Take Me Out A Michael Jackson impersonator enters the 'love lift'
7.30pm	Secrets of Bones Exploring how vertebrates capture and devour their food	Speechless JJ is pressured into going on a date with a new student at school	You've Been Framed! Gold A building crushes a sports car
8.00pm	Kolkata with Sue Perkins The presenter explores life in the diverse 21st-century megacity formerly known as Calcutta	The Goldbergs Erica, Barry and Adam's distant relative Gleb visits from Russia	You've Been Framed! Gold Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a mustard-swallowing challenge that backfires
8.30pm	Julius Caesar Revealed Mary Beard explores the life, reign and legacy of the Roman politician, revealing how his influence is still shaping people's everyday lives	Schooled Principal Glascott enlists the help of Coach Mellor to lay down the law	American Pie (1999,15) Four teenage boys make a pact to lose their virginity before the high-school prom, but cause huge embarrassment in the process. Comedy, with Jason Biggs, Eugene Levy, Shannon Elizabeth, Alyson Hannigan and Chris Klein. Includes FYI Daily
9.00pm		Tattoo Fixers: Extreme Pash gets rid of biker Pete's offensive ink, and Alice creates an original tattoo for heart transplant patient Brad	
9.30pm		First Dates Hotel Fitness fanatic Bernard, 87, sits down for a meal with septuagenarian ballroom dancer Ruth	
10.00pm	The Normans Professor Robert Bartlett explores the expansion and unchecked ambition of the Norman empire		
10.30pm		11.05 The Hangover Games A group of friends from Barrow compete	11.05 Family Guy Peter volunteers for the police force
11.00pm	Blazes and Brigades: The Story of the Fire Service Documentary looking back on nearly two centuries of British firefighting (To 12.00)	11.40 The Big Bang Theory Howard and Raj have a kite competition (To 12.05)	Family Guy Peter's mother and father get a divorce (To 12.00)
11.30pm			

A-Z SATELLITE LISTINGS

ALIBI**Sky 132 Virgin 126**

12noon Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries. **1.00** Motive. **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries. **4.00** Rizzoli & Isles. **5.00** Rush. **6.00** Motive. **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries. **8.00** Murdoch Mysteries. **9.00** Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries. **10.00** The Coroner. **11.00** New Tricks.

ANIMAL PLANET**Sky 162 Virgin 256**

12noon Wildest Europe. **1.00** Alaskan Bush People. **2.00** Animal Cops Houston. **3.00** Pit Bulls & Parolees. **4.00** Insane Pools: Off the Deep End. **5.00** Crocodile Hunter. **6.00** Sharks v Dolphins: Face Off. **7.00** Wildest Latin America. **8.00** Alaskan Bush People. **9.00** Extinct or Alive. **10.00** Animal Cops Houston. **11.00** Pit Bulls & Parolees.

BBC ALBA**Sky 169 Virgin 161**

7.00am Alba Today. **5.00pm** Tree Fu Tom. **5.20** Gudrun – A' Bhana-phrionnsa Lochlannach. **5.30** Igam Ogam. **5.40** Na Flogaigs. **5.50** Stoiridh. **6.00** Dragonan – Reis chun an iomail. **6.25** An Rud As Fhearr Leam. **6.35** Aithne air Ainmhidhean. **7.00** Beartas nan Daoine. **7.30** Speaking Our Language. **7.55** Earrann Eachraidh. **8.00** An La. **8.30** Dealbhan Fraoich. **9.00** Iul a' Chiuil. **10.00** Fonn Fonn Fonn. **10.30** Port. **11.00** Opry le Daniel. **11.50** Dhan Uisge.

BT SPORT 1**Sky 413**

11.15am MotoGP. **1.15pm** MotoGP Chequered Flag. **2.15** IPL. **3.15** Live IPL. Sunrisers Hyderabad v Chennai Super Kings. **7.30** BT Sport Reload. **8.00** Live MLB. Brewers v Cardinals. **11.00** Rugby Tonight On Tour. **11.30** UFC Connected.

BT SPORT 2**Sky 414**

12noon The Big Match Revisited. **2.00** Premier League Reload. **2.15** Goals Reload. **2.30** Premiership Rugby Highlights. **5.30** MotoGP. **6.00** Bundesliga: Behind The Team. **6.30** Premier League World. **7.00** Live UEFA Champions League. **10.30** Live UEFA Champions League Highlights. **11.30** No Filter Boxing.

BT SPORT 3**Sky 417**

12noon UEFA Champions League. **2.00** UEFA Europa League Magazine. **2.30** Bundesliga Highlights. **3.30** Premier League Reload. **3.45** Premier League. **5.15** UEFA Champions League. **6.15** UEFA Champions League. **7.15** Live

UEFA Champions League. Porto v Liverpool. **10.30** BT Sport Films.

COMEDY CENTRAL**Sky 112 Virgin 132**

12noon Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place. **1.00** Friends. **4.00** Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place. **5.00** Friends. **8.00** Your Face or Mine. **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News. **10.00** The Comedy Bus. **10.35** Russell Howard's Stand Up Central. **11.00** Jackass.

DAVE (DAYTIME)**Freeview 12 Sky 111 Virgin 127**

11.55am Red Bull Soapbox Race. **12.55pm** Top Gear India Special. **2.50** Top Gear Winter Olympics Special. **3.50** Top Gear. **5.30** Red Bull Soapbox Race.

DISCOVERY**Sky 125 Virgin 250**

9.00am Outback Truckers. **11.00** Wheeler Dealers. **12noon** Baggage Battles. **1.00** Combat Dealers. **2.00** Wheeler Dealers. **3.00** Ed Stafford: Left for Dead. **4.00** Mighty Ships. **5.00** Gold Rush. **6.00** Fast N' Loud Revved Up. **7.00** Outback Truckers. **8.00** Alaska: The Last Frontier. **9.00** Tanked. **10.00** Moonshiners. **11.00** Wheeler Dealers.

DRAMA (DAYTIME)**Freeview 20 Sky 143 Virgin 130**

9.00am Pie in the Sky. **10.00** Classic Holby City. **11.00** The Bill. **1.00pm** Classic EastEnders. **2.20** Bergerac. **3.20** Lovejoy. **4.20** Pie in the Sky. **5.20** Birds of a Feather. **6.00** Brush Strokes. **6.40** Bread.

E4 (DAYTIME)**Freeview 28 Sky 135 Virgin 106**

9.00am Baby Daddy. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.00** The Goldbergs. **12noon** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. **2.00** Baby Daddy. **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **4.00** The Goldbergs. **5.00** The Crystal Maze. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory.

EDEN**Sky 166 Virgin 245**

12noon Galapagos. **1.00** Ten Deadliest Snakes with Nigel Marven. **2.00** Jungle Planet. **3.00** Forces of Nature with Brian Cox. **4.00** Ten Deadliest Snakes with Nigel Marven. **5.00** Jungle Planet. **6.00** Madagascar. **7.00** Galapagos. **8.00** Forces of Nature with Brian Cox. **9.00** Sea of Creepy Monsters. **10.00** Madagascar. **11.00** Galapagos.

EUROSPORT 1**Sky 410 Virgin 523**

9.00am World Superbikes. **10.00** Cycling: Tour of Turkey. **11.00** Live

Cycling: Tour of Turkey. **1.00pm** Golf: Masters. **2.00** WATTS Top 10. **2.15** Live Cycling: Brabantse Pijl. **4.45** Cycling: Get to Know. **5.00** Snooker: O'Sullivan v Allen. **7.00** Cycling: Tour of Turkey. **8.30** Cycling: Brabantse Pijl. **9.30** Cycling: Amstel Gold Race. **10.30** Cycling: Tour of Turkey. **11.30** Cycling: Brabantse Pijl.

FILM4**Freeview 15 Sky 313 Virgin 428**

11.00am GARFIELD 2: A TALE OF TWO KITTIES. (2006) (U) **12.35pm** ICE AGE. (2002) (U) **2.10** OVER THE HEDGE. (2006) (U) **3.50** BACK TO THE FUTURE PART III. (1990) (PG) **6.10** EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS. (2014) (12) **9.00** EDDIE THE EAGLE. (2016) (PG) **11.10** COMMANDO. (1985) (18) **12.55am** MONSTERS: DARK CONTINENT. (2014) (15)

5STAR (DAYTIME)**Freeview 30 Sky 128 Virgin 151**

12noon Two and a Half Men. **1.00** 3rd Rock from the Sun. **2.00** Will & Grace. **3.00** Neighbours. **3.30** Home and Away. **4.00** My Wife and Kids. **5.00** Fresh Off the Boat. **6.00** Neighbours. **6.30** Home and Away.

5 USA (DAYTIME)**Freeview 21 Sky 141 Virgin 153**

11.10am Law & Order. **1.10pm** FILM: Jesse Stone: Death in Paradise. (2006) (15) Includes Access. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. **5.00** NCIS. **6.00** Law & Order.

FOOD NETWORK UK**Freeview 41 Sky 172 Virgin 291**

6.00pm Jamie's Super Food. **6.30** Jamie's 15 Minute Meals. **7.00** The Pioneer Woman. **8.00** Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. **10.00** Gok's Chinese Takeaway. **11.00** Mystery Diners.

FOX**Sky 124 Virgin 157**

10.00am Monk. **11.00** NCIS. **12noon** Bones. **2.00** The Mentalist. **3.00** NCIS. **4.00** Monk. **5.00** Bones. **6.00** The Mentalist. **7.00** NCIS. **10.00** Bull. **11.00** American Dad!

GOLD**Sky 110**

12noon 2point4 Children. **1.20** Hi-de-Hi! **2.00** dinnerladies. **2.40** 2point4 Children. **4.00** Last of the Summer Wine. **6.00** Hi-de-Hi! **6.40** dinnerladies. **7.20** Dad's Army. **8.40** Blackadder II. **10.00** Live at the Apollo. **11.00** Black Books.

HISTORY**Sky 130 Virgin 270**

9.00am Mega Mechanics. **10.00** Ozzy & Jack's American Roadtrip. **11.00** Mountain Men. **12noon** Forged

in Fire. **1.00** American Pickers. **2.00** Hardcore Pawn. **3.00** Storage Wars. **5.00** Forged in Fire. **7.00** American Pickers. **8.00** Mega Mechanics. **9.00** The Curse of Oak Island. **10.00** River Hunters. **11.00** WW2 Treasure Hunters.

ITV2 (DAYTIME)**Freeview 6 Sky 118 Virgin 115**

8.55am You've Been Framed! Gold. **9.25** The Ellen DeGeneres Show. **10.15** BGT: Top 10 Comedy Corkers. **11.15** The Guide to You've Been Framed! Gold. **12.15pm** Emmerdale. **1.15** You've Been Framed! Gold. **1.40** The Ellen DeGeneres Show. **2.35** Jeremy Kyle. **6.00** Take Me Out.

ITV3 (DAYTIME)**Freeview 10 Sky 119 Virgin 117**

9.00am Judge Judy. **10.30** Agatha Christie's Poirot: Taken at the Flood. **12.40pm** Heartbeat. **1.45** Classic Emmerdale. **2.50** Classic Coronation Street. **3.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Death. **5.55** Heartbeat.

ITV4 (DAYTIME)**Freeview 24 Sky 120 Virgin 118**

8.40am Quincy ME. **9.40** Minder. **10.45** The Sweeney. **11.50** The

RADIO 4

FM: 92.4-94.6MHZ; LW: 198KHZ

5.30 News Briefing. **5.43** Prayer for the Day. **5.45** Farming Today. **5.58** Tweet of the Day. **6.00** Today. **9.00** New Ways of Seeing. New series. See 9.30pm. **9.30** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry. (LW) Daily Service. (FM) Book of the Week: Michael Tippett: The Biography. **10.00** Woman's Hour.

Including at 10.41: Part three of The Citadel, by Christopher Reason. **10.55** The Listening Project. **11.00** My Name Is. A young man trying to escape a life in gangs. **11.30** Ability. **12.00** News; (LW) Shipping Forecast. **12.04** Adrian Mole and the Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Professionals. **12.55pm** The Protectors. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. **4.00** Minder. **5.00** The Professionals. **6.00** The Car Chasers.

ITVBE**Freeview 26 Sky 131 Virgin 119**

9.00am LittleBe. **12noon** Income Property. **12.25** The Real Housewives of New Jersey. **1.20** The Bachelor. **2.15** Million Dollar Listing: LA. **3.10** The Real Housewives of Orange County. **4.05** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. **6.00** Buyers Bootcamp. **7.00** Buying and Selling. **8.00** Dinner Date. **9.00** Sam and Billie Faiers: The Mummy Diaries. **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex. **11.00** Celebrity Showmance. **12midnight** Selling It in the ATL.

LIFETIME**Sky 164 Virgin 208**

9.00am Pawn Stars. **10.00** Storage Wars. **11.00** Judge Judy. **1.00pm** Britain's Next Top Model. **2.00** Escaping Polygamy. **3.00** Judge Judy. **4.00** Dance Moms. **5.00** Project Runway All Stars. **6.00** Pawn Stars. **7.00** Judge Judy. **9.00**

Little Women: Atlanta. **10.00** Little Women: LA. **11.00** Hardcore Pawn.

MORE4 (DAYTIME)**Freeview 14 Sky 136 Virgin 147**

8.55am A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **9.55** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **10.55** The Great British Bake Off. **12.15pm** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **1.15** Four in a Bed. **3.50** Food Unwrapped. **4.55** The Secret Life of the Zoo. **5.55** The Supertv. **6.55** 999: On the Frontline.

NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC**Sky 129 Virgin 266**

9.00am Yukon Gold. **10.00** Highway Thru Hell. **11.00** Ice Road Rescue. **12noon** Wicked Tuna: North v South. **1.00** Wicked Tuna. **2.00** Car SOS. **4.00** Air Crash Investigation. **6.00** WWII's Greatest Raids. **7.00** Nazi Megastructures. **8.00** Alaska's Toughest Pilots. **9.00** Alaska State Troopers. **10.00** Lawless Island: Alaska. **11.00** Car SOS.

PBS AMERICA**Freeview 91 Sky 174 Virgin 276**

10.20am Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz.

RADIO CHOICE

■ **MARY ANNE HOBBS (BBC 6 MUSIC, 10.30AM)** plays us a session by James Blake, recently recorded at the Maida Vale studios, which includes tracks from his recent album, Assume Form. Classically trained, James (pictured) enjoys collaborating with other artistes, and Travis Scott, Andre 3000, Moses Sumney and the singer Rosalia all worked with him on the album.

■ **A TRIP** to Disneyland on a forged passport cost Kim Jong-nam his prospect of becoming one of the world's most powerful men – and his life. He was the half-brother and heir apparent to Kim Jong-un, supreme leader of North Korea. The jaunt to Disneyland went very wrong, exposing North Korea to ridicule and sending Kim Jong-nam into exile. The drama-documentary **DEATH AT**

12.18 You and Yours. **1.00** The World at One. **1.45** One to One. **2.00** The Archers. **2.15** **PICK** Drama: Death at the Airport: The Plot Against Kim Jong-nam. By Nick Perry. **3.00** Money Box Live. **3.30** **PICK** In Their Element. **4.00** Thinking Allowed. **4.30** The Media Show.

5.00 PM; (LW) Shipping Forecast. **6.00** Six O'Clock News. **6.30** Fags, Mags and Bags. **7.00** The Archers. Russ comes to a decision. **7.15** Front Row. Arts news. **7.45** The Citadel. **8.00** FutureProofing. How the home will be transformed by radical technological change. **8.45** Lent Talks.

ITV 3	ITV 4	MORE 4	PICK	QUEST	DAVE	DRAMA	5STAR	5USA
<div>10</div> Murder, She Wrote Jessica travels to Amish country in search of a special handmade quilt, but finds herself embroiled in yet another baffling murder investigation	<div>24</div> The Chase Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize	<div>14</div> 6.55 999: On the Frontline A 93-year-old may have a life-threatening infection	<div>11</div> Warehouse 13 Pete and Myka visit Hong Kong in search of Skyes, and upon entering his lair become involved in a dangerous game with lives at stake	<div>37</div> Railroad Australia Bernie struggles home in five streamliner locos pulling 90 old coal wagons. After 20 years renovating a diesel locomotive, James wants to drive it	<div>12</div> World's Most Dangerous Roads <i>Twenty Twelve</i> co-stars Hugh Bonneville and Jessica Hynes go on a road trip through the former Soviet republic of Georgia	<div>20</div> 7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Foggy, Clegg and Compo hit on a solution to their transport problems – building their own bikes. Bill Owen and Brian Wilde star	<div>30</div> Two and a Half Men Jake seeks advice about a girl at school	<div>21</div> Law & Order A restaurant owner is beaten to death, and Briscoe and Green's investigation leads them to a gang of thrill-seeking teenagers
Agatha Christie's Poirot Murder in Mesopotamia: An archaeologist's wife is murdered during an excavation in the Middle East. Fortunately, a vacationing Poirot – who shares with most great detectives an inability to go on holiday without stumbling over a body or two – is on hand to investigate. David Suchet stars	River Monsters Jeremy Wade visits the north of Australia, where something in the waters was seemingly responsible for the disappearance of six men	7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Stephen Yeoman and Anita Findlay, who want to build a cutting-edge, post-industrial house in the traditional area of the South Downs	Lost Girl Bo becomes convinced a prisoner sentenced to death is innocent, and uses her political knowledge in a bid to get her out of jail, before going on a mission of vengeance	Salvage Hunters In Macclesfield, Cheshire, Drew Pritchard meets a mother-and-son team. Later, in Leeds he catches up with a young dealer with an eye for modern pieces	Last Stop Garage The boys repair a hovercraft for a local journalist	Rosemary & Thyme Part one of two. The amateur sleuths investigate when a man who apparently drowned is spotted alive and well just a few days later	Greatest Ever Movie Blunders Elis James points out mistakes in movies	NCIS The teenage daughter of a U.S. Navy commander is abducted, and Ziva and Abby work closely with the girl's friend, who managed to escape from the kidnappers
10.05 The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco Drama set during the social change of the mid-Fifties, following four women gifted with extraordinary intelligence	Magnum Force (1973,18) Maverick cop Dirty Harry antagonises his superiors once more in his pursuit of a vigilante group responsible for murdering the city's most wanted criminals. However, he is unaware that the killers are some of his fellow officers – and are prepared to see him dead to keep their secret safe. Action thriller sequel, starring Clint Eastwood and Hal Holbrook. Includes FYI Daily	Find It, Fix It, Drive It Henry Cole and Sam Lovegrove restore and transform a 1968 Morris ambulance into the quintessential vintage race transporter	Murders That Shocked the Nation Exploring the story of Armin Meiwes, who in Germany in 2002 filmed himself killing and eating a victim he had contacted online	Salvage Hunters: The Restorers New series. Cabinet-maker Alex resurrects a 300-year-old chest	QI Stephen Fry conjures up some seasonal merriment with Jenny Eclair, Johnny Vegas and Bill Bailey supplementing the efforts of regular panellist Alan Davies	Rosemary & Thyme Part two of two. The amateur sleuths continue their investigation. Mystery drama, starring Felicity Kendal and Pam Ferris	Rich Kids Go Homeless New series. Six young privileged Brits agree to live on the streets of London for three nights	Gone A pop star's sister is abducted from a sold-out concert – leaving the team with a huge crowd of suspects
The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco It becomes clear that San Francisco is in the grip of a killer with a dark and complex agenda (To 12.05)	11.35 The Usual Suspects (1995,18) Thriller. Includes FYI Daily (To 1.50)	Car SOS Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw restore an Aston Martin DB6 for its owner, who has been prevented from working on it due to health problems	Elementary Holmes and Watson are taken into the dark case of an illegal drug trial that is driving participants to murder	Salvage Hunters – Best Buys Drew Pritchard counts down some of his most memorable buys, from the rare and valuable to the exquisite and the quirky	Have I Got a Bit More News for You Katherine Ryan hosts the topical quiz, with Richard Osman and Desiree Burch joining team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton	New Tricks Jack examines a conspiracy theory that the American government was involved in the death of a journalist who witnessed a crash at a U.S. Air Force base	Elysium (2013,15) In the future, most of the human race exists in poverty on a ruined Earth, while a wealthy elite live on a space station. A man dying of radiation poisoning fights security forces to gain access to the satellite and its medical facilities. Sci-fi thriller, with Matt Damon. Includes Access (To 12.15)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Cragen orders Benson off a case. With Maria Bello
		24 Hours in A&E A 56-year-old man is put on life support following a cardiac arrest, and a nightclub host realises his lifestyle is taking its toll (To 12.00)	Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK Police officers in west Wales deal with violent drunks and drug dealers, as well as a dangerous domestic incident (To 12.00)	How It's Made The development of Marseille soap and Laguiole pocket knives	Porters Simon is forced to become a sperm donor to raise extra rent money	11.15 Taggart Two skulls are found during building work, and the detective investigates a possible link to the theft of poisonous snakes from a Glasgow laboratory (To 2.20)		10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit The team are called in when the body of a badly beaten teenager is found on a ride at an amusement park
				How It's Made Reconditioned sander drums and lithographs (To 12.00)	11.40 Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You Hosted by David Mitchell (To 12.40)			11.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A girl is killed in a hit-and-run (To 12.55)

12.15pm Great Escape – The Reckoning. **1.20** The Secrets of the Mary Rose. **2.30** King Alfred and the Anglo-Saxons. **3.50** Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz. **5.35** The Secrets of the Mary Rose. **6.40** King Alfred and the Anglo-Saxons. **7.55** The Mysteries of the Medieval Ship. **9.00** War at Sea: Scotland's Story. **11.15** The Mysteries of the Medieval Ship.

PICK (DAYTIME)

Freeview 11 Sky 152 Virgin 123

12noon Border Patrol. **1.00** Police Force: Australia. **2.00** Border Security: Australia's Front Line. **3.00** Nothing to Declare. **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize. **5.00** Without a Trace. **6.00** Stargate SG-1.

QUEST (DAYTIME)

Freeview 37 Sky 144 Virgin 172

9.00am Wheeler Dealers. **11.00** Fantomworks. **12noon** Chasing Classic Cars. **1.00** Gold Divers: Under the Ice. **2.00** Railroad Australia. **3.00** Salvage Hunters. **4.00** Shed and Buried. **5.00** Mighty Cruise Ships. **6.00** Wheeler Dealers.



THE AIRPORT (RADIO 4, 2.15PM) looks at the facts and the rumours behind Kim's downfall and the fatal ambush in February 2017, when two women smeared

9.00 Costing the Earth. The impact of Brexit on the British countryside. **9.30 New Ways of Seeing.** Artist James Bridle reveals the internet's hidden infrastructure. **10.00 The World Tonight.** **10.45 Book at Bedtime: Adrian Mole and the Weapons of Mass Destruction.** By Sue Townsend.

REALLY

Freeview 17 Sky 142 Virgin 128

12noon Escape to the Country. **1.00** Escape to the Country. **2.00** Fantasy Homes by the Sea. **3.00** Sarah Beeny's Renovate Don't Relocate. **4.00** Most Haunted. **5.00** Ghost Adventures. **6.00** Antiques Road Trip. **7.00** Escape to the Country. **8.00** Sarah Beeny's Renovate Don't Relocate. **9.00** One Born Every Minute. **10.00** Nightwatch: Emergency After Dark. **11.00** Inside the Ambulance.

SKY ARTS

Sky 122 Virgin 122

12noon The Seventies. **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected. **1.30** J.R.R. Tolkien. **2.45** Off Camera with Sam Jones. **4.00** Discovering: Max von Sydow. **5.00** Discovering: Julie Andrews. **6.00** The Seventies. **7.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2019. **8.00** Comedy Legends. **9.00** Urban Myths: Donald Trump and Andy Warhol. **9.30** Urban Myths: Princess Diana, Freddie Mercury and Kenny Everett. **10.00** The History of Comedy. **11.00** Discovering: Bill Murray.

his face with nerve agent at Kuala Lumpur airport. ■ SOME people feel almost no pain, even in the throes of childbirth. This may be due to a genetic mutation that changes the way sodium works in their bodies. For this afternoon's instalment of **IN THEIR ELEMENT (RADIO 4, 3.30PM)**, Sophie Scott tells us about the chemical element, which may be the key to a new generation of painkillers.

11.00 Bunk Bed. With actor Cate Blanchett. **11.15 Kieran Hodgson's Earworms.** An idiot's guide to Mahler. **11.30 The Untold.** **12.00 News; Weather. 12.30 Book of the Week: Michael Tippett: The Biography.** By Oliver Soden. **12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As BBC World Service.**

SKY ATLANTIC

Sky 108

9.00am The West Wing. **11.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **12noon** Without a Trace. **2.00** Blue Bloods. **3.00** The West Wing. **5.00** Without a Trace. **7.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **8.00** Blue Bloods. **9.00** Billions. **10.10** Veep. **10.45** Barry. **11.20** The Case Against Adnan Syed.

SKY COMEDY

Sky 307 Virgin 438

11.00am TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY. (2006) (15) **1.05pm** BLADES OF GLORY. (2007) (12) **2.45** STEP BROTHERS. (2008) (15) **4.35** THE HOUSE. (2017) (15) **6.10** MADE OF HONOUR. (2008) (12) **8.00** BLADES OF GLORY. (2007) (12) **9.40** STEP BROTHERS. (2008) (15) **11.35** THE HOUSE. (2017) (15)

SKY DRAMA

Sky 309 Virgin 440

11.45am TULLY. (2018) (15) **1.30pm** LOST IN TRANSLATION. (2003) (15) **3.20** THE PRINCE OF TIDES. (1991) (PG) **5.35** JERRY MAGUIRE. (1996) (15) **8.00** TULLY. (2018) (15) **9.45** MY FRIEND DAHMER. (2017) (15) **11.40** MARSHALL. (2017) (15)

RADIO 2 FM: 88-90.2MHZ

5.00 Nicki Chapman. **6.30** The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show. **9.30** Jo Whiley. **12.00** Vanessa Feltz. **2.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon. **5.00** Sara Cox. **7.00** Mark Radcliffe. **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe. **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. **12.00** O.J. Borg.

RADIO 3 FM: 90.2-92.4MHZ

6.30 Breakfast. **9.00** Essential Classics. **12.00** Composer of the Week: Berg. **1.00** News. **1.02** Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. **2.00** Afternoon Concert. **3.30** Choral Evensong. **4.30** New Generation Artists. **5.00** In Tune. **7.00** In Tune Mixtape. **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert. A performance of Tippett's The Rose Lake. **10.00** Free Thinking. **10.45** The Essay. **11.00** Late Junction. **12.30** Through the Night.

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW: 693/909KHZ

5.00 Reports. **5.15** Wake Up to Money. **6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** Your Call. **10.00** The Emma Barnett Show with Clare McDonnell. **1.00** Nihal Arthanayake. **4.00** 5 Live Drive. **7.00** 5 Live Sport. **8.00** Champions League Football. **10.30** Geoff Lloyd. **1.00** Up All Night.

SKY MUSICALS

Sky 308 Virgin 442

9.50am WEST SIDE STORY. (1961) (PG) **12.30pm** THE GREATEST SHOWMAN. (2017) (PG) **2.20** ANNIE. (1982) (U) **4.30** SLEEPING BEAUTY. (1959) (U) **6.00** PITCH PERFECT. (2012) (12) **8.00** THE GREATEST SHOWMAN. (2017) (PG) **10.00** GREASE. (1978) (PG)

SKY ONE

Sky 106 Virgin 110

12noon NCIS: Los Angeles. **1.00** Hawaii Five-0. **3.00** Modern Family. **4.00** The Simpsons. **5.30** Futurama. **6.30** The Simpsons. **8.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow. **9.00** Magnum P.L. **10.00** Strike Back: Silent War. **11.00** Karl Pilkington: The Moaning of Life.

SKY PREMIERE

Sky 301 Virgin 431

11.35am CHRISTOPHER ROBIN. (2018) (PG) **1.35pm** SUPER TROOPERS 2. (2018) (15) **3.20** LU OVER THE WALL. (2017) (PG) **5.20** DUSTY AND ME. (2016) (12) **7.00** CHRISTOPHER ROBIN. (2018) (PG) **9.00** SUPER TROOPERS 2. (2018) (15) **10.45** THE WHISKEY BANDIT. (2017) (15)

SKY WITNESS

Sky 107 Virgin 112

12noon Paramedics. **3.00** To Catch a Smuggler: JFK. Airport. **7.00** Nothing to Declare. **8.00** Criminal Minds. **9.00** Grey's Anatomy. **10.00** Station 19. **11.00** Criminal Minds.

SKY MAIN EVENT

Sky 401 Virgin 511

8.40am Live ANZ Premiership Netball. **10.15** Sky Sports Boxing Gold. **10.30** Sky Sports News. **12.30pm** Live Royal London One-Day Cup Cricket. **9.00** Sky Sports Tonight. **10.00** The Debate. **11.00** Sky Sports News.

SKY PREMIER LEAGUE

Sky 402 Virgin 512

9.00am The Debate. **10.00** Premier League Years. **12noon** The Debate. **1.00** Premier League Years. **3.00** PL Best Goals 13/14. **4.00** PL Greatest Games. **5.00** Premier League Highlights. **5.30** Premier League 100 Club. **6.00** Premier League Review. **7.00** Premier League World. **7.30** Premier League Highlights. **8.00** Premier League Review. **9.00** Premier League World. **9.30** Premier League Highlights. **10.00** The Debate. **11.00** PL Best Goals 93/94.

SKY FOOTBALL

Sky 403 Virgin 513

9.00am Football Years. **10.00** EFL Play-Off Final Highlights. **11.00**

One2Eleven. **11.30** Football's Greatest Players. **12noon** EFL Greatest Games. **12.30** SPFL Greatest Games. **1.00** Football Countdowns. **2.00** Football Years. **3.00** EFL Football League Play-Off Finals. **5.00** EFL Greatest Games. **5.30** SPFL Greatest Games. **6.00** Football Years. **6.30** Soccer AM: The Best Bits. **7.00** Football's Greatest Players. **8.00** EFL Greatest Games. **8.30** SPFL Greatest Games. **9.00** EFL Play-Off Final Highlights. **10.00** The Debate. **11.00** Football's Greatest Players.

SKY CRICKET

Sky 404 Virgin 514

9.00am Cricket's Greatest Games. **10.00** Coaching Clinic with Rob Key. **10.55** Lord's Pavilion Portraits. **11.00** Best of Sky Cricket. **11.30** Royal London One-Day Cup Cricket. **12.30pm** Live Royal London One-Day Cup Cricket. **9.00** How the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup Was Won. **11.00** World Cup Cricket Classics.

SKY MIX

Sky 121 Virgin 520

8.40am Live ANZ Premiership Netball. **10.15** Game Changers. **10.30** Netball Superleague. **11.30** Sporting Greats. **12noon** Netball Superleague. **1.00** Sporting Records. **1.30** My Icon: Rachel Yankey. **1.45** My Icon: John Amaechi. **2.00** Netball Superleague. **3.00** Game Changers. **3.30** My Icon: Rachel Yankey. **3.45** My Icon: John Amaechi. **4.00** Game Changers. **4.15** My Icon: Natasha Jonas. **4.30** Game Changers. **5.00** WWE Main Event. **6.00** Netball Superleague. **7.00** My Icon: Shaun Gayle. **7.10** ANZ Premiership Netball. **8.45** My Icon: Shaun Gayle. **9.00** Sporting Greats. **9.30** Game Changers. **10.00** NRL Try Time. **11.00** Premier League World. **11.30** Premier League 100 Club.

SONY CRIME CHANNEL

Freeview 40 Sky 157 Virgin 193

11.00am Body of Evidence. **1.00pm** Facing Evil. **2.00** Murder Detectives: Solved by CCTV. **3.00** Fatal Attraction. **4.00** Person of Interest. **5.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **7.00** Hustle. **9.00** Bizarre Murders. **11.00** Murder Detectives: Solved by CCTV.

SYFY

Sky 114 Virgin 135

8.00am Teleshopping. **11.00** Stitchers. **12noon** Primeval. **1.00** FILM: The Librarian 2: Return to King Solomon's Mines. (2006) (PG) **3.00** Buffy the Vampire Slayer. **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager. **6.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation. **8.00** Stitchers. **9.00** Project Blue Book. **10.00** FILM: Quarantine 2: Terminal. (2011) (15)

TALKING PICTURES TV

Freeview 81 Sky 328 Virgin 445

12noon FILM: The History of Mr Polly. (1949) (U) **2.00** The Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre. **3.30** FILM: The Purple Plain. (1954) (PG) **5.30** Robin's Nest. **6.00** FILM: Mr Perrin and Mr Traill. (1948) (U) **7.50** FILM: A Little of What You Fancy. (1968) (U) **9.00** A Family at War. **10.00** Spearhead. **11.00** FILM: A Kind of Loving. (1962) (PG)

TCM

Sky 315 Virgin 415

7.20am THE CHEYENNE SOCIAL CLUB. (1970) (PG) **9.30** THE SEA OF GRASS. (1947) (PG) **12noon** GUN FIGHT. (1961) (U) **1.30** THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL. (1960) (PG) **3.30** A TORNADO IN THE SADDLE. (1942) (PG) **4.45** THE UNFORGIVEN. (1960) (PG) **7.15** THE GUN RUNNERS. (1958) (PG) Crime drama, starring Audie Murphy. **9.00** ENTER THE DRAGON. (1973) (18) **11.10** TANGO & CASH. (1989) (18) **12.00am** THE LAST DETAIL. (1973) (18)

TRUE ENTERTAINMENT

Freeview 61 Sky 179 Virgin 189

11.00am Little House on the Prairie. **1.00pm** FILM: Danielle Steel's Daddy. (1991) (PG) **3.00** Rumpole of the Bailey. **4.00** Murder, She Wrote. **5.00** Hamish Macbeth. **6.00** Born and Bred. **7.00** M*A*S*H. **8.00** Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). **9.00** Taggart.

UNIVERSAL TV

Sky 113 Virgin 137

12noon Murder in Paradise. **1.00** Law & Order. **3.00** CSI: Miami. **5.00** Major Crimes. **7.00** NCIS. **9.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. **10.00** The Murders. **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

W

Sky 109 Virgin 125

12noon Tipping Point. **2.00** My Dream Home. **4.00** Renovate My Home: Leave It to Bryan. **5.00** Tipping Point. **6.00** John Torode's Australia. **7.00** Fantasy Homes by the Sea. **8.00** Inside the Ambulance. **9.00** The Story of Fertility. **10.00** The World According to Kids. **11.00** The Shift: Women on the Force.

YESTERDAY

Freeview 19 Sky 155 Virgin 129

12noon Time Team. **2.00** The Life of Mammals. **3.00** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. **4.00** Murder Maps. **5.00** Wartime Crime. **6.00** The World at War. **7.00** Impossible Engineering. **8.00** Hitler's Most Wanted. **9.00** Porridge. **10.20** Steptoe and Son. **11.00** Open All Hours.

Escape

GEE, NAPA'S GOT BOTTLE!

Six months after fires tore through California, it's business as usual for its sunny wineries

THE town of Paradise in California's Butte County was all but completely wiped out as the state endured its worst-ever wildfires in September last year.

But they are nothing if not resilient, these Californians, and the message in Butte and the grape-growing territory heading south-west to Napa Valley is that it's business as usual.

This is California's leading wine region, famed for its sultry chardonnays, zesty sauvignon blancs and big, bold cabernet sauvignons. Napa might only account for some 4 per cent of California's wine production, but it welcomes 3.5 million visitors and contributes a remarkable £38 billion to the U.S. economy each year.

My first port of call is Calistoga, a small town at the top of the valley celebrated for its hot springs

and geothermal baths. At a friend's insistence, I head straight for the Calistoga Motor Lodge & Spa. Here, I allow the charming Christel to slather my face in white kaolin clay and then plaster me with a paint brush from head to toe in French green clay. 'You will feel won-der-ful!' she exclaims.

Next stop is the CIA. No, not that one, silly, the Culinary Institute of America, housed in a forbidding former Christian Brothers building. It lies on the outskirts of St Helena,

a town for which the epithet 'quaint' was invented. The main drag is crammed with neat little boutiques, galleries, bakeries and bistros.

The CIA hosts all manner of courses for aspiring chefs, sommeliers and restaurateurs and serves a pretty fine lunch for visitors, too, in its Gatehouse Restaurant.

I fall in with Cindy and Cathy from Hannibal, Missouri. It's their first time in Napa and they

Vintage views: Napa Valley and (inset) wine tasting



Picture: CORBIS / GETTY

tell me they're delighted to find a menu that doesn't rely on deep-fried catfish and onion rings. 'At Bubba's, our local, they sell onion rings by the foot,' says Cathy. 'You walk in and waddle out.'

There are almost 500 wineries in the region and most boast excellent tasting rooms and beaming, California-sized welcomes. Some ask that you book ahead; at others, you simply pitch up with an inquiring thirst.

It would take months to visit every winery, so I pick just a handful based on the style of wines I like. I drop in on Joseph Phelps Vineyards, Charles Krug Winery, Robert Mondavi Winery, Cakebread Cellars and Turnbull Wine Cellars to name a few and taste — or rather, drink — like a king.

I also dine well at Charter Oak in St Helena and, on Highway 29, at Mustards Grill, whose Truckstop Special — 'Always meat, often potatoes, rarely vegetables' — is a belt-straining delight. So engrossed am I in my browsing and sluicing that I manage — idiotically — to miss my trip on the Napa Valley Wine Train and a balloon ride over the vineyards. There's always next time.

JONATHAN RAY

TRAVEL FACTS

BA FLIES twice daily from Heathrow to San Francisco from £378 return (ba.com). See visitnapavalley.com

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Dec	from	£259		Dec	from	£299		Dec	from	£419	
Jan	from	£219		Jan	from	£269		Jan	from	£379	
Feb	from	£239		Feb	from	£279		Feb	from	£419	

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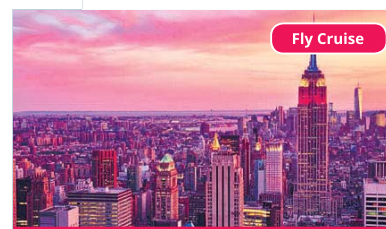
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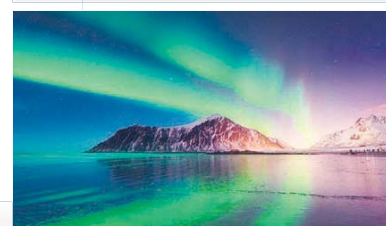
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“NEUROPATHIC PAIN

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¹TRIAL: With Revitive, calculations showed blood volume 4 times higher than baseline / at rest, in healthy people (Varatharajan et al. 2014). The effect of footplate neuromuscular electrical stimulation on venous and arterial hemodynamics. Phlebology, July 4 20 participants.) UNSUITABLE IF YOU ARE: Fitted with a heart pacemaker or AICD, being treated for, or have the symptoms of, an Existing Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) or during pregnancy. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If you are uncertain about the cause of your symptoms or your symptoms persist, please consult your doctor. *Free standard P&P worth £299 in England and Wales. Some areas of Scotland, Northern Ireland and other remote postcodes will incur a surcharge cost of £9.99. Next day or express deliveries will cost more, please ask our customer service team for a quote. **If returned within 60 days, full refund of purchase price, minus collection fee of £299 (some areas of Scotland, Northern Ireland and other remote postcodes will incur a surcharge cost of £9.99). Must be returned in original packaging otherwise further charges may apply. 1 trial per customer only & trial starts from dispatch date. **If you suffer a long term illness or disability, you may be able to claim back the VAT. All quotes used are real however, to protect the identity of our customers, models have been used for the pictures. Copyright © 2019 Actegy Ltd. All rights reserved. REVITIVE and CIRCULATION BOOSTER are trademarks or registered trademarks of Actegy Ltd. Registered in England no. 489502. Registered office Actegy Ltd, Reflex, Cain Road, Bracknell, RG12 1HL, UK. A.V. 15379569 09.18

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Australia - Sydney's iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge, the Whitsunday Isles and the Great Barrier Reef await.

Japan - In Tokyo, immerse yourself in one of the most populated cities on earth; while Kagoshima offers a more relaxing experience to discover Japanese culture and heritage.

China - In Beijing and Shanghai, the ancient past is displayed in a wealth of temples and museums. Bustling Hong Kong Island will exhaust your senses.

Vietnam - Utterly compelling, Vietnam is a country of breath-taking beauty with a unique heritage. Discover Ho Chi Minh City, still referred to as Saigon.

Gulf of Thailand - From the ancient ruins of Angkor in Cambodia, the largest religious site on earth, to the Buddhist temples and Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand.

Singapore - With its futuristic architecture and high-speed efficiency, Singapore is an oriental star. Step back and discover its rich history and culture.

India - If you're not tempted by an excursion to Agra and the Taj Mahal, take in some of Cochin's fascinating cultural legacy before visiting the intoxicating city of Mumbai.

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DL. De Luxe Balcony	£52,399	FREE	
12. Premium	£36,679	FREE	see bonus discounts table
11. Superior Plus	£34,059	FREE	
9. Superior	£31,439	FREE	
8. Standard Plus	£28,169	FREE	£14,085
7. Standard	£26,859	FREE	£13,429
Voyager^	£23,999	FREE	see bonus
3. Superior Inner	£22,269	FREE	£11,135
Voyager^ Inner	£17,999	FREE	see bonus
Singles	Full Fare	Saver Fare	You Save
DLS. De Luxe Balcony Suite	£65,499	£32,749	see bonus discounts table
12S. Premium	£45,858	£22,929	
10. Superior	£39,299	£19,649	£19,650
8S. Standard Plus	£35,209	£17,609	£17,600
5. Superior Inner	£30,999	£15,499	£15,500

Bonus Saver Discounts

Accommodation (twin)	Was	Bonus Discount	Now
DL. De Luxe Balcony	£26,199pp	£6200pp	£19,999pp
12. Premium	£18,339pp	£2000pp	£16,339pp
11. Superior Plus	£17,029pp	£1500pp	£15,529pp
9. Superior	£15,719pp	£1000pp	£14,719pp
Voyager^	£11,999pp	£2000pp	£9999pp
Voyager^ Inner	£8999pp	£500pp	£8499pp
Singles			
DLS. De Luxe Balcony	£32,749	£4000	£28,749
12S. Premium	£22,929	£2000	£20,929

All categories with ocean view unless stated.



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A Great British Invention Ecocamel showerheads deliver real cost and energy savings. The Jetstorm is a marvellous piece of design. Robin Whitfield, our British designer, combined his knowledge of carburettors with existing inlet technology to create the Jetstorm – a patented system of air intakes that make it one of the most efficient showerheads ever produced.

Ecocamel Saves Energy When you use less water, you need less energy to heat it, resulting in real energy bills savings. With energy prices on the rise every penny counts, and users are saving hundreds and thousands of litres of water each year.

Power Shower Experience One of the questions regularly put to us is: "If I am saving all that water, isn't the shower experience severely diminished?" No! In fact, this is one of our greatest triumphs – you enjoy a powerful, refreshing spa-like shower experience. And you don't have to take our word for it. An article in The Sunday Telegraph said this about our Jetstorm showerhead: "(My husband) grudgingly admits the new model works better than the conventional showerhead so it's staying on the shower – much to my and the household purse's delight!"

Save Money, Save Water & Save Energy The equation is simple: Less water used=less energy to heat=less

ECOCAMEL'S INGENIOUS JETSTORM SHOWERHEAD

Revolutionary Aircore Technology boosts performance with 'air injection'

THE SCIENCE BEHIND AIRCORE TECHNOLOGY



Aircore technology saves water by sucking air into the showerhead and injecting each droplet of water with microscopic air bubbles

cost. The Jetstorm showerhead is most efficient at saving costs in homes with: a water meter, gravity fed systems of 0.5 bar and above, mains pressure systems and pumped systems. Recently featured on BBCs The Apprentice, Ecocamel was well received by a leading UK retailer. As one contestant said: "This is a no brainer! It saves water, energy, money and gives a good shower."

A Great Business Decision "I chose Ecocamel for two reasons. Firstly the savings I made: Ecocamel showerheads will save me over £4,000 on energy and water costs per hotel annually. Secondly, the showerhead gave a very refreshing experience, which is very important to our guests." Mr. T G, General Manager, The Days Inn Hotel, Hyde Park.

The Verdict Following a review of five different

shower heads, examining both flow rate and overall quality of the experience, GOOD HOUSEKEEPING INSTITUTE concluded "...our favourite is the Ecocamel Jetstorm, it felt powerful and invigorating."

After a three month trial, Alfa Leisureplex installed Ecocamel showerheads in all 1,750 hotel rooms across their 20 hotels. "Adding to the commercial benefit is the showering experience... I highly recommend all hoteliers invest similarly," said Karen Sawbridge, Operations Director.

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rise in the number
of people in work in the UK
since the Brexit vote

The loan barons at war over Britain's poorest borrowers

Fears for 2.6m customers as takeover battle for the Provvy turns ugly

by James Burton

REGULATORS face growing pressure to intervene in an increasingly vicious takeover battle for doorstep lender Provident Financial.

There are rising fears that vulnerable borrowers could be harmed as Non-Standard Finance steps up efforts to seize control of the Provvy, having launched a hostile £1.3bn takeover bid.

MPs and campaigners are now calling for action to ensure the deal does not hurt Provident Financial's 2.4m customers or the 180,000 who have borrowed from NSF.

It came as the Provvy launched another attack on NSF, branding its offer a 'dreadful deal'.

In response, NSF blasted the Provvy's management for failing customers, incompetence and a disregarding shareholders.

City analysts warned the spat is increasingly unedifying, particularly when the two are arguing over the right to lend to some of Britain's most hard-up families.

David Buik, of trading firm Core Spreads, said: 'Rhetoric like this is very counter-productive. In a high-risk business, shareholders want reassurance that the com-



Mud-slinging: NSF's John van Kuffeler and Malcolm Le May of Provident Financial

pany will be run by responsible people who have the support and respect of the community.'

NSF boss John van Kuffeler ran the Provvy for 22 years and has pledged to boost profits if his bid to seize control succeeds. The 70-year-old is going head to head with the Provvy's chief executive, 61-year-old former investment banker Malcolm Le May.

NSF already has the backing of major Provvy shareholders Invesco Asset Management, Marathon Asset Management and fund manager Neil Woodford, who together have a stake of more than 50pc.

But in its latest broadside, the Provvy attacked NSF for account-

ing errors over a dividend payment that broke company law, saying it was a sign the firm could not be trusted. Provvy chairman Patrick Snowball said: 'These unlawful distributions are a telling indictment of the competency of the NSF team.'

'At this point, there is no new revelation about this deal; it is still the same dreadful deal that it was on day one. It is more of a coup d'etat than a hostile takeover, spearheaded by a management team at NSF with a track record of value-destructive acquisitions, and facilitated by powerful shareholders.'

NSF said: 'The Provident board is determined to deflect from its

history of self-inflicted wounds and incompetence - defective leadership, customer failings, destruction of shareholder value, erosion of shareholder trust and strategic vacuum.'

Campaigners are demanding the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) acts to ensure customers are not harmed by NSF's plans.

The FCA has already written to NSF to say that any attempts to exploit Provvy customers for bigger profits will not be tolerated.

Labour MP Stella Creasy wrote to City Minister John Glen yesterday, saying she has her eye on the deal and asking what sanctions there would be if Provident relaxed its own controls.

RBS braced for pay backlash

ROYAL Bank of Scotland investors have been urged to vote down chief executive Ross McEwan's £3.6m 'excessive pay packet'.

Shareholder advisory firm Pirc said elements of the award are 'inappropriate', and said he was paid 46 times more than the average bank employee.

Ahead of the bank's annual general meeting next week, it took issue with Mr McEwan's total variable pay - at 211.1pc of salary - describing it as 'excessive', as it is over the recommended limit of 200pc.

Pirc recommends shareholders reject the 62.4pc-taxpayer-owned bank's remuneration report.

The New Zealander's pay packet last year was a £1m basic salary, a £1m fixed share allowance and a £1.1m long-term incentive award.

Pay awards are expected to come under close scrutiny over the coming months. Investor advisory groups Glass Lewis and ISS are recommending shareholders back RBS's remuneration report.

McEwan has presided over a return to profit at RBS, which in February reported its second successive year in the black and announced a £1.6bn final dividend, resulting in a near £1bn windfall for the taxpayer.

Blackrock in bullish mood

MARKETS could rally sharply amid signs of solid growth in the US and China, according to the boss of investment titan Blackrock.

Better economic data and a pause in interest rate rises create 'Goldilocks' conditions for a rebound, Larry Fink said as Blackrock reinforced its position as the world's biggest fund manager, sucking in an extra £50bn to give it total assets of £5trillion.

Fink said many big investors are waiting for signs of solid growth before they pump money into stocks. He said: 'There's too much global pessimism. There's still a lot of money on the sidelines, and I think you'll see investors put money back into equities.'

Blackrock also raised the alarm about climate change. Richard Turnill, chief investment strategist, said: 'Decisive actions to curb carbon emissions could mitigate damage. Climate change is increasingly a risk that investors cannot afford to ignore.'

Netflix shares fall despite bumper earnings

STREAMING giant Netflix posted a bumper set of figures last night - but warned fewer new subscribers will sign up in the coming months.

The US tech giant, which is behind shows such as *The Crown* (which will soon star *Olivia Colman*, pictured) said it added 1.74m paid subscribers in its home market and 7.86m worldwide - outstripping both its own and Wall Street's estimates.

Netflix also outperformed in the amount of revenue it made in the first quarter - with turnover of £3.5bn, up 22pc, beating forecasts of £3.4bn. Its earnings rose 19pc to £264m - also surpassing estimates.

More than 25m households that have Netflix accounts have already watched David Attenborough show *Our Planet*, its most ambitious documentary project ever, and a

by Francesca Washtell

documentary about the sham-bolic Fyre festival has been watched by 20m. But shares fell 5pc in after-hours trading after it said it will add fewer subscribers in the second quarter.

Netflix said it expects another 5m people worldwide to sign up to its film and TV streaming service in the second quarter, compared with 5.45m it added in the same period of last year.

The cooler outlook comes as the company faces increasing pressure from rival



streaming services that are being launched by Disney and Apple. Disney last week launched its Disney Plus service in the US, which offers a range of Disney, Pixar and Star Wars films for \$6.99 a month - much less than the \$13 that Netflix charges Americans for its standard package.

But Netflix shrugged off the competition, saying it still expects another year of record annual subscriber growth and is looking forward to 'a strong slate of global content in the second half of the year'.

This includes new series of hit shows *Stranger Things* and *Orange Is the New Black*, and new Martin

Scorsese film *The Irishman*. Before the results were released, Deutsche Bank raised its rating on Netflix shares from 'hold' to 'buy'.

Analyst Bryan Kraft said Netflix is becoming 'a cultural necessity for people around the world.' He added that Netflix is increasing a 'magnet for talent' and that there are 'no other competing platforms that approach Netflix's reach'.

Netflix was founded in 1997 by entrepreneurs Reed Hastings and Marc Randolph in California. It was originally a postal DVD rental service but in 2007 it started offering customers the choice to stream films and TV shows online.

The company gained critical acclaim when it launched its first self-made TV show, *House of Cards*, in 2013, and now ploughs billions into making original content.

Now JD Sports leaves Ashley in the shade

Chain bucks high street gloom with record results

by **Hannah Uttley**

JD SPORTS defied the High Street gloom to rake in record profits as it stretched its lead over rival Sports Direct.

Shares in the chain jumped to a record high after it posted a 15.4pc rise in profits to £399.9m in the year to February 2.

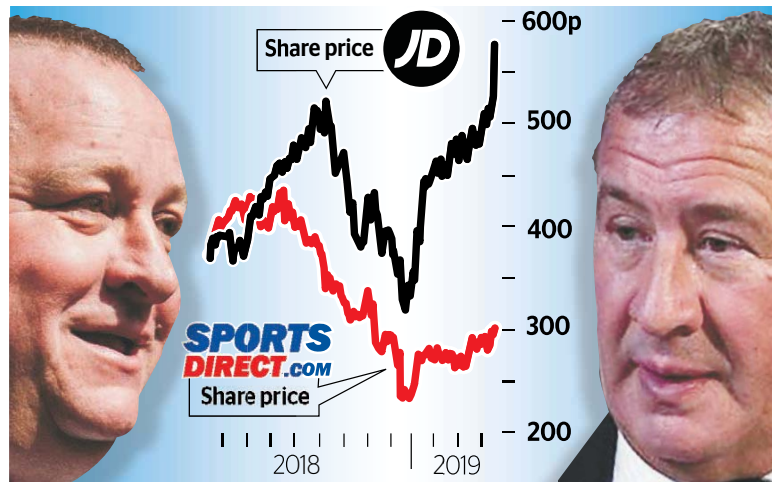
Same-store sales climbed 6pc as chunky Fila footwear and Vans Old Skool trainers flew off the shelves.

The bumper results will come as a blow for Sports Direct boss Mike Ashley, who in 2011 predicted that he could 'finish off' his rival.

Peter Cowgill, the chief executive of JD Sports, said: 'I don't think his prediction was quite right. 'Let's hope he's better with his gambling.'

Ashley, 54, has lost hundreds of millions of pounds on a series of ill-judged retail bets.

They include one on Debenhams which crashed into administration last week, wiping out his near-30pc



Turf war: Sports Direct boss Mike Ashley and JD Sports chief Peter Cowgill

stake. JD Sports has also been on a spree, snapping up US brand Finish Line for £396m and Liam Gallagher's menswear chain Pretty Green. The Finish Line deal netted Ashley

a £37m payout after he was forced to sell off his 9.85pc stake. Currently, JD Sports is preparing to fork out £90m for its smaller rival Footasylum.

JD Sports is now worth £5.6bn, a figure more than three times the value of Sports Direct, which is worth £1.6bn.

Cowgill added: 'Mike's a bright guy and he's gone down one route in terms of his High Street development and we've taken another route. We've stuck to our knitting largely and he's expanded over and beyond. As it stands at the moment I can only reflect on the results. I would never knock Mike Ashley in that respect.' JD Sports'

roaring success is in contrast to many traditional retailers which are battling to keep hold of customers as more shoppers go online.

Just last week Debenhams crashed into administration, while retailers such as Topshop owner Arcadia, Marks & Spencer and New Look have been shutting stores.

Cowgill explained that JD Sports has focused its attention on attracting and retaining younger shoppers, with the majority of its customers aged between 16 and 24.

'We've recognised the increasing relevance of millennials and generation Z and we have worked tirelessly at delivering consumer experience in both bricks and mortar and online,' he said.

Shares in the retailer jumped 8.4pc, or 44.6p, to 576.6p last night as investors celebrated the retailer's success.

Analysts at Peel Hunt said: 'It's hard to think of such an impressive showing anywhere else in retail and JD's sales growth and profit delivery is stellar, despite the negative background and awkward weather for outdoor.'

'The shares have gone from strength to strength and we see no reason why this won't continue as the strength of the JD brand, its management and its general forward momentum show no sign of waning.'

Huawei hits back in US spying row

from **Matt Oliver** in Shenzhen, China

THE cyber security chief of a controversial Chinese firm has accused the US of 'belittling national security' with spying claims.

John Suffolk, a former top UK civil servant, says concerns about Huawei were based on trying to thwart competition from China.

He said there was 'not much more' Huawei could do to persuade critics, and called on British ministers not to ban it from 5G networks.

Huawei is a major provider of telecoms equipment used by companies such as BT and Vodafone to transmit mobile phone and internet data.

But the US warns the firm's kit could be vulnerable to snooping by China, and wants European allies to shun it.

In China yesterday, Suffolk said: 'They're belittling national security. Some people you are never going to convince. Whether it is because they believe Huawei are terrible people or China is a terrible country, you don't know.'

The UK is reviewing rules which say who telecoms firms can source equipment from.

Suffolk, 61, called on the UK to set out security standards, rather than banning Huawei.

He was formerly chief information officer at Whitehall. His move to Huawei in 2011 saw him grilled by officials before he took the post.

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Wave of interest in shipyard

MINISTERS are being inundated with plans for vessels to be built at Appledore Shipyard.

Sited at the mouth of the river Torridge near Barnstaple, it has been a shipbuilding hub since 1855, and shut last month when a lease held by defence giant Babcock International ran out.

The shipyard's owner Langham Industries is now on the hunt for new contracts and business offers so work can restart.

Leaked documents from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) seen by the Mail show an electric ferry, support boats

for a tidal energy project in Bristol and two platforms for offshore oil and gas operations are among projects vying to be built at Appledore. A 90m vessel for a Polish firm, two fishing boats and the new Isles of Scilly ferry are also among the ventures.

The BEIS document said it has 'reached the point where we are now receiving unsolicited enquiries', and these are being worked up into more detailed business plans.

BEIS has put together a consortium, a mix of investors and companies seeking contractual work, and 'two respected entre-

preneurs' have emerged to lead a business at the yard.

Tim Jones, of the South West Business Council, said: 'There are encouraging discussions.'

Chris Langham, head of Langham Industries which owns the freehold of the shipyard, said: 'I'm not aware of all these projects. I think some must be highly speculative. We stand ready to negotiate with potential operators or consortiums provided they're in a position to proceed and at the moment that isn't the case.'

BEIS said it did not comment on leaks.

Asda short-changing 3,000 staff says MP

AN MP says Asda is short-changing 3,000 staff with changes to contracts to end paid breaks.

The supermarket is in consultations to simplify terms for hourly paid workers and increase the basic pay to £9 per hour.

But Siobhain McDonagh, Labour MP for Mitcham and Morden, says staff could be £500 worse off per year.

In a letter she tweeted yesterday, she wrote: '£500+ is a huge amount of money and would have a significant impact on their livelihoods. I welcome any increase in basic hourly pay but this must not be used to disguise a significant cut for 3,000 staff.'

Employees will be asked to be more flexible and breaks would no longer be paid. Asda vice-president Anthony Hemmerdinger said: 'A key part of delivering great service is having the right colleagues in the right place at the right time, which is what this aims to achieve.'

G4S revenues rise amid takeover talk

TAKEOVER target G4S posted a jump in first-quarter revenue and said it is making good progress in a review to split off its cash business.

Revenue was 4.8pc higher than in the same period last year as chief executive Ashley Almanza said in a trading update there had been growth 'in all regions and divisions'.

It came as G4S, which runs UK prisons and is known for bungling security at the London 2012 Olympics, is eyed by Canadian rival Garda World, which may buy the world's largest listed security firm and has until May 8 to make an offer.

G4S's security division, which provides guards to major events, grew 4.9pc as it picked up more work in Africa and the Americas.

And a 4.4pc boost in sales in its cash arm, which transports and stores money, was helped by a 30pc jump in North America revenues.

G4S said in December it was looking to split off the cash business to focus on its security arm as it thinks a separation will make money for shareholders. Shares rose 1.7pc, or 3.9p, to 233.9p.

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FCA must stop this deal

NON-STANDARD Finance (NSF) boss John van Kuffeler is one of the City's cavaliers. He has irrepressible confidence and managed to persuade shareholders Invesco and Woodford that the pursuit of much larger and profitable doorstep lender Provident Financial would be a walk in the park.

A 70-year-old Flemish aristocrat, van Kuffeler is as adventurous in business as he is in his personal life. His confidence extends to dismissing breaches of company law as 'technical infringements'.

But in a letter to investors, Provident chairman Patrick Snowball says breaches of the Companies Act, including the payment of dividends from reserves, were unlawful, an indictment of the NSF team and down to weak oversight.

Snowball accuses van Kuffeler of orchestrating a 'coup d'etat' by a management team with a record of 'value-destructive acquisitions'. Hostile takeovers are often bitterly contested but the mud-slinging in this deal is at an entirely different level.

The NSF's £1.3bn offer is opportunism dressed up as benevolence with little regard for the interest of customers. Provident,

Alex Brummer

CITY EDITOR



owner of the valuable Vanquis Bank, has 2.4m clients, many of whom are among the most vulnerable borrowers in Britain. This is a big bite for NSF, with just 180,000 customers and a lack of contemporary experience in managing something so large and complex.

In his letter, Snowball focuses on the lessening of competition and the possibility that the Competition and Markets Authority could take its probe to the next stage. If that happens the so-called 'irrevocable' votes from Invesco and Woodford would be unlocked and the deal would come off the rails.

It is fascinating that, having shouted victory from the rooftops ten days ago when NSF passed the 50pc mark for shareholder acceptances, the company has so far failed miserably to mop up the rest of the votes

and had to seek an extension from the City referee, The Takeover Panel. The real reasons why this deal should not be done are ones of financial prudence and stability.

The City regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), made its position clear last month. In a letter to NSF, it emphasised that high-cost credit and protecting vulnerable consumers is at the heart of everything it does. Since then, the FCA has faced severe criticism and likely Commons hearings over its lax scrutiny of the collapsed mini-bond firm London Capital & Finance (LCF).

The better-off customers of LCF and poor clients of NSF/Provident could not be more different in terms of the sections of society served. The high-cost lending market is the province of the most desperate in society.

The very idea that Provident clients should find themselves at the heart of a financially-driven takeover run by an overweening, ethically indifferent entrepreneur is unacceptable.

Every day which passes is more uncertainty for customers who don't deserve to be pawns in a down and dirty City battle.

Keep running

THE rise and rise of JD Sports speaks volumes for the staying power of its principal owners, the Rubin family-controlled Pent-

land group. Unlike Mike Ashley of Sports Direct, who likes to buy retailers for the hell of it, JD Sports has a sense of direction.

Profits, at £340m, are motoring along with store sales as it takes advantage of athletic wear as fashion. One would normally caution any UK retailer taking aim at the American market, given the number of firms that have come a cropper.

But there ought to be optimism about JD's assault through its purchase of Finish Line. Pentland has good form in the US, dating back to when it turned an unknown footwear company, Reebok, into a global superbrand. Investors are certainly putting their trust in JD, with a market value of £5.6bn. It is now worth three Sports Directs and more than Marks & Spencer, and the FTSE 100 could soon beckon.

Who would have thought?

Well done

FRENCH patriotism is boundless in a way which is different to the UK.

Francois Pinault, owner of Chateau Latour, was the first to pop up with £100m (£86.5m) to rebuild Notre Dame, only to be outdone a few hours later by fellow billionaire Bernard Arnault, of LVMH, with a €200m (£173m) donation. Not to be left out L'Oreal, along with the controlling Bettencourt Meyers families, pledged €200m.

SURPRISE RECOVERY BOOSTS ONLINE FASHION RETAILER

ONLINE retailer Zalando is set to bag an unexpected profit amid booming demand in Europe.

The firm, which is Europe's biggest online-only fashion retailer, expects profits of up to £8.5m for the first three months of the year. Analysts had been expecting a loss of £8.5m.

Shares in the Frankfurt-listed company jumped 10.6pc, or €3.98, to €41.56.

Zalando normally makes a loss during the period due to it selling off stock at a lower price after Christmas.

Adam Tomlinson, analyst at Liberum, said: 'This is a positive short-term development. It has built an infrastructure uniquely placed to fend off competition and has a logistics network that is looking increasingly superior to Amazon.'

Zalando sells more than 1,900 brands including Nike, Ralph Lauren, Adidas and Levi's.

It has struggled recently amid fierce competition and heavy discounting among online rivals.

Meanwhile, profits have been under pressure as it piles investment into logistics and technology to improve its online delivery.

Zalando is trying to grow profitability by charging brands a commission to sell through its website rather than buying and selling products itself.

David Schroder, chief financial officer, said: 'We are pleased with our performance in the quarter.'



Galliford Try plunges 20pc on profit shock

by Francesca Washtell

GALLIFORD TRY lost more than a fifth of its value after a profit warning related to its struggling construction arm.

On a brutal day for investors, shares fell 20.5pc, or 149p, to 576.5p yesterday, wiping £165m off its value.

The rout came after it said full-year profits would be £30m to £40m lower than forecast by analysts. It had been expected to make £156m.

Galliford has now launched a review of its construction arm saying that it will 'reduce the size' of the business.

It is just the latest Government contractor to suffer following the collapse of Carillion and Interserve.

Its troubles come a day after Kier Group's new boss Andrew Davies launched a review to bolster his firm's finances.

FTSE 250-listed Galliford said the biggest hit to profits would come from fresh costs related to the £1.3bn Queensferry Crossing (pictured), a bridge that connects Edin-



burgh and Fife. It has also struggled with higher bills linked to a bypass in Aberdeen after a project partner, Carillion, collapsed into administration, and problems with unnamed contracts that could cost it as much as £38m.

Its construction arm's wafer-thin profit margin is less than 1pc.

Galliford is split up into three units: construction, its Linden Homes housebuilding arm, and a partnerships business which works on social

housing and joint ventures with local authorities.

In the company's half-year results in February, construction accounted for more than half of Galliford's £1.4bn revenues, but just 7pc of its £94m operating profit.

It said yesterday that it will 'reduce the size' of the business to focus on its key strengths, taking fewer contracts on in future.

An evaluation will finish next month and the outcome will be revealed on May 21.

£2.3bn Travelex float

PAYMENTS firm Finabl is to list on the London Stock Exchange in a float tipped to value it at up to £2.3bn.

Finabl, which owns foreign exchange firm Travelex, is set to raise £153m from selling new shares when it hits the stock market next month.

Shareholders in the United Arab Emirates-based firm founded by 76-year-old

Indian billionaire Bavaguthu Shetty, will also sell parts of their stakes.

It comes a week after Network International, another UAE payments business, listed in London. Its shares rose 20pc on the first day, valuing it at around £2.4bn.

Finabl processed more than 150m transactions last year, serving clients such as Google India.

Unicredit's £1bn US fine

ITALIAN bank Unicredit has been fined £1bn for doing illegal business with Iran.

The lender's German arm Hypovereinsbank worked with clients in Iran, Cuba, Libya and the Sudan between 2002 and 2011, despite US sanctions.

Staff hid suspicious transactions from computer systems, say prosecutors.

Linda Lacewell, of the New York Department of Financial Services, said: 'It prioritised profit over compliance and security by engaging in billions of dollars of transactions with clients from sanctioned nations, and then working to cover its tracks.' Fifteen banks have been fined for busting sanctions.

Tablet firm swallowed

FOOD delivery operator Just Eat has acquired Practi, a software service that provides independent restaurants and small chains with tablet-based point-of-sale systems.

The deal, for an initial £6.7m, is meant to strengthen its relationship with restaurant partners. It will see the delivery giant deploy new tablets or install

Practi software on Just Eat orderpads to provide a system dealing with payment handling, management and kitchen operations.

Just Eat interim chief executive Peter Duffy said restaurants were calling for this type of software. It follows a £22m deal to buy software provider Flyt in January. Shares rose 0.8pc, or 5.8p, to 738.8p.

FTSE 100 7469.92 33.05 0.44%	FTSE 250 19923.38 116.29 0.59%	FTSE All Share 4092.04 18.92 0.46%	DOW 26452.66 67.89 0.26%	NIKKEI 22221.66 52.55 0.24%	HANG SENG 30129.87 319.15 1.07%	DAX 12101.32 81.04 0.67%	Brent Spot 71.16 0.15 0.21%	Gold 1276.30 9.40 0.73%
H:7877.45 L:6584.68	H:21324.02 L:17090.47	H:4324.41 L:3596.07	H:26828.39 L:21792.20	H:24270.62 L:19155.74	H:31541.08 L:24585.53	H:13169.92 L:10381.51	H:71.73 L:53.21	H:1343.80 L:1276.30
£/\$ 1.3049 H:1.4227 L:1.2523	£/€ 1.1555 H:1.1754 L:1.0998	Tourist Rates	Aus\$ 1.74 Can\$ 1.67	DenKr 8.22 Euro€ 1.10	JpnY 139.41 NZ\$ 1.80	SAR 17.26 SwFr 1.25	TurkL 7.21 US\$ 1.25	
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UK cyber firm bouncing back as bid rumours swirl

ROUMOURS are circulating around the City that NCC Group, a British cyber security company, could soon be snapped up by a predator.

Its shares have been creeping up over the last few weeks, after warnings of a UK slowdown knocked 31pc off its value in January. Over the last month, they are up 19.4pc.

NCC, which specialises in 'ethical hacking' to help businesses find weaknesses in their systems, was born when the Government's National Computing Centre sold its commercial divisions in 1999.

Beady-eyed observers have their money on private equity firms, IT giant IBM and, possibly, computer company Dell as potential bidders. Sources close to the company said it was not in takeover talks, but that hasn't stopped traders speculating that an offer could be on the horizon. The stock was up 2.9pc, or 4.8p, at 172.2p.

Card Factory was proving that greetings cards aren't dead yet, as it opened an average of almost

MARKET REPORT



by **Lucy White**

one store a week last year. Same-store sales at the chain were flat compared to the previous year, although chief executive Karen Hubbard claimed this as a victory in a year when shoppers shunned the High Street.

Although profits slipped 8.3pc to £66.6m, revenue climbed 3.3pc to £436m, helped along by a massive 56.3pc rise in sales on its website.

Hubbard said that, already this year, it had seen record seasonal performances from Valentine's Day and Mothers' Day.

After opening 51 stores over the year, bringing its total to 1,200, Card Factory is still planning to expand. It has tested selling products in Aldi in the UK, in an Aus-

tralian retailer and with a partner in Jersey. Shares climbed 10pc, or 17.7p, to 194.8p.

Operations haven't run so smoothly for mining giant Rio Tinto so far this year.

Tropical cyclones in Australia battered its iron ore business, causing damage and forcing it to lower its guidance for shipments.

The miner shipped 69.1m tonnes of iron ore in the first three months of the year, 14pc less than a year previously. It now hopes to transport between 333m and 343m tonnes for the whole of 2019, down from 338m to 350m tonnes. Shares slid by 0.6pc, or 30p, to 467.2p.

Britain's jobs market isn't coming to the standstill some feared it might in the run-up to Brexit, says white-collar recruiter Hays.

In the first three months of 2019, Hays' fee revenue from the UK and Ireland edged up by 3pc. But growth in fees slowed in Germany, where the trade spat between the US and China has also weighed on the economy.

The total net fee growth for the third quarter of Hays' financial

year hit 6pc, missing analysts' expectations of 7pc. Shares were down 2.6pc, or 4.3p, at 158.8p.

In another uneventful day among Britain's biggest listed companies, the FTSE 100 ended a marginal 0.4pc, or 33.05 points, up at 7469.92. On the junior market AIM, warnings of tough trading conditions pushed down shares at Tatton Asset Management, even though it grew assets under management from £4.9bn to £6.1bn for the year ending in March.

Chief executive Paul Hogarth was 'disappointed' with the lack of growth at Paradigm Consulting, the part of Tatton that helps wealth managers and financial advisers comply with regulation. Shares fell 10.4pc, or 24p, to 207p.

Emerging markets specialist Ashmore, however, climbed 6.3pc or 28.8p to 484.2p as it raked in £3.8bn of new money from clients. Its strong investment performance generated a further £2.8bn, and chief executive Mark Coombs said calmer political relations in the developed world were helping emerging economies.



STOCK WATCH



■ **Bould Opportunities**, formerly known as Photonstar LED Group prior to putting its lighting business into administration, is in trouble itself.

It doesn't have enough money for its new plan to buy an as-yet unnamed company which wants to be listed on London's junior market.

Investors seemed to have been hoping for a miracle as shares climbed, but Bould said it may have to run to investors to raise more cash. Shares fell 27.4pc, or 0.02p, to 0.04p.

Aerospace & Defence			
Aston Martin	930	-7 1374	908
BAE Systems	5094	+54 676	445
Cobham	114	+4 1314	96
Meggitt	516	+64 572	449
QinetiQ	289	+1 311	219
Rolls-Royce	901	+104 1094	759
Senior	226	+2 334	185
TI Fluid Systems	215	290	156
Ultra Electronics	1526	+1743 1232	

Banks			
Banco Santander	400	+84 485	344
Barclays	167	+4 216	146
BGE Group	1679	-6 3650	1310
CVBG	212	-2 364	173
HSBC Hldgs	662	+6 745	600
Lloyds Banking	65	+6 75	50
Metro Bank	826	-132 3518	758
Royal Bank of Scot	262	+2 296	203
Stan Chartered	674	+1770 519	
TBC Bank Group	1550	-22 1886	1290

Beverages			
Barr (AG)	829	+3 829	665
Britvic	931	-1 956	702
Coca-Cola HBC	2664	+7 2801	2244
Diageo	3117	-3 3141	2451

Chemicals			
Croda	5044	+6 5318	4438
Elementis	178	+1 305	151
Johnson Matt	3400	+16 3823	2620
Synthermer	410	+4 575	347
Victrex	2476	+4 3408	2156

Construction & Materials			
Balfour Beatty	267	-1 311	230
CRH	2549	+29 1871	1912
Galliford Try	576	-149 1104	565
Grafton Gp	905	+2 905	630
Istock	256	+4 305	193
Kier Group	366	+8 1092	333
Marshalls	636	-62 642	399
PolyPIPE Group	425	-14 432	307

Electricity			
Contour Global	209	-4 264	150
Drax Gp	370	+3 427	294
SSE	1135	-2 1440	1032

Electronic & Electrical Equipment			
Malma	1756	+11 1778	1200
Morgan Advanced	274	-1 363	237
Renishaw	4592	+118 5685	3670
Spectris	2758	+10 2906	1966

Equity Investment Instruments			
3i Infrastructure	280	283	211
Aberforth Smr Cos	1268	1442	1120
AJ Bell	341	-7 350	230
Alliance Trust	772	+6 785	672
Baillie Giff Japan	701	+4 869	663
Bankers InvTst	906	+6 906	766
BlackRock Smr	1434	+20 1600	1160
BMO Global Smr	1332	+14 1495	1220
Brit Empire Trust	736	+1 767	660
Caledonia Inv	3015	+15 3015	2650
City of London IT	427	+12 442	376
Edin Inv Trust	646	+4 712	588

TOP RISERS			
	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
Card Factory	194.8p	+9.99%	Positive outlook
JD Sports	576.6p	+8.38%	Strong results
Games Workshop	3974p	+6.89%	Investor sentiment
Ashmore	484.2p	+6.32%	Recovering markets
Wizz Air	3447p	+3.54%	Lufthansa jitters

General Financial			
3i Group	1068	+52 1068	756
Amigo Holdings	257	+82 310	154
Ashmore Gp	484	+284 484	337
Brewin Dolphin	335	+3 388	295
Charter Court	367	-2 368	228
IG Gp	954	+1 954	510
Close Brothers	1605	+44 1660	1406
Coats Group	82	+4 91	69
Hargraves Lansdown	2205	+57 2270	1633
Genesis Emg Mkts	739	+8 739	615
Greenoat UK	140	+142 118	
Harbourvest Gb	1466	+4 1476	1184
Herald Inv Trust	1302	+18 1370	1055
HJCL Infr	163	-4 166	161
JPM American	439	-2 472	381
JPM Emg Mkt	958	+8 958	759
JPM Indian IT	730	+8 734	566
JPM Japan IT	410	+72 472	367
Jupiter European	762	+7 895	666
Jupiter Fund Mngt	395	+64 488	287
Mercantile IT	206	+4 225	168
Monks Inv Tst	882	+11 882	710
Murray Intl Tst	1180	+8 1208	1056
NBL Gbl Flt Rate	91	94	87
Pantheon Intl	2120	-5 2200	1890
Perpetual Inc&Gth	334	+12 375	301
Pershing Square	1372	+2 1372	889
Personal Assets	40450	+100 40650	38900
Polar Cap Tech Tst	1338	+14 1386	1066
Renewables Infra	122	+123 104	
RIT Cap Partners	2090	+5 2130	1892
Riverstone Energy	960	+18 1298	934
Schroder Asia	461	+2 481	379
Scottish Inv Tst	807	+4 902	748
Scottish Mortgage	530	+72 568	441
Squidua Econ Infl	113	-8 114	105
Smithson Inv Trust	1210	+16 1210	1000
Syncona	259	-2 302	193
Temple Bar IT	1352	+10 1352	1116
Templeton Em Mkts	787	+5 787	649
Vietnam Enterprise	439	480	390
VinaCapital Vietna	328	-3 350	306
Witan Invest	1070	+14 1138	948
Woodford Patient	81	+4 91	73
Wwde Healthcare	2665	-10 2915	2325

Food Producers			
Assoc Brit Foods	2529	-12 2836	2041
Bakkavor	130	206	113
Cranwick	2896	+4 3460	2472
Dairy Crest Gp	620	643	413
Greencore Gp	217	+44 217	154
Hilton Food Gp	955	-5 1005	850
Late & Lyle	737	+4 737	559
Unilever	4372	+26 4486	3861

Forestry & Paper			
Mondi	1759	-45 2236	1584

TOP FALLERS			
	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
Galliford Try	576.5p	-20.54%	Profit warning
IP Group	97p	-3.39%	Profit taking
Mediclinic	303.8p	-2.66%	Broker downgrade
Hays	158.8p	-2.64%	German slowdown
Mondi	1759p	-2.49%	Sector sluggishness

General Financial			
IMI	1043	+21 1242	870
Melrose Ind	192	+1 247	146
RHI Magnesita	4970	-24 5350	3318
Rotork	318	+2 361	235
RPC Group	787	-4 834	632
Smith (DS)	352	+64 579	292
Smiths Gp	1536	+2151801 1279	
Smurfit Kappa Gp	2319	+20 3292	1934
Spirax-Sarco	8040	+30 8040	5645
Vesuvius	642	+1 662	473
Weir Gp	1762	+412 2325	1240

Leisure Goods			
Games Workshop	3974	+256 4015	2390

Life Insurance			
Aviva	426	+7 552	364
Just Group	68	+1 150	58
Langcashire Hldgs	680	+8 680	530
Legal & General	289	+1 289	223
Phoenix Gp	716	+9 803	544
Prudential	1748	+4621954 1340	
St James Place	1117	+301240 914	
Stan Life Aberdeen	274	+3 473	22

Media			
Ascential	352	-3 465	337
Auto Trader Gp	557	+124 557	338
Daily Mail&Gen Tst	673	+3 774	557
Entertainment One	465	-1 476	268
Euromy Inst Inv	1250	1450	1132
Informa	785	+34 859	605
ITV	134	+14 180	122
Moneysprmtk.com	347	+23 372	284
Pearson	825	-104 1027	774
RELX	1668	+20 1769	1491
Rightmove Group	540	+94 540	420
WPP	909	+24 1360	800

Mining			
Acacia Mining	169	+12 256	98
Anglo American	2176	+11 2226	1464
Antofagasta	1002	1149	727
BHP Group	1909	+64 1944	1490
Centamin	83	-1 164	83
Ervaz	659	+15 659	402
Ferrexpo	301	+4 301	143
Fresnillo	779	-5 1340	745
Glencore	334	+4 400	269
Hochschild Mining	187	+4 224	149
Kaz Minerals	723	+11 1076	436
Polymet Int	814	+10 894	597
Rio Tinto	4672	+2304771 3486	
Sirius Minerals	21	+2 38	18

Nonlife Insurance			
Bodycote	903	+72 1055	676
Hill & Smith	1300	-2 1523	902

Oil & Gas Producers			
BP	568	-14 598	485
Cairn Energy	166	-4 267	140
Energean Oil&Gas	839	-7 846	507
Premier Oil	101	+4 143	55
R Dutch Shell A	2468	2748	2213
R Dutch Shell B	2492	+12 2841	2227
Tullow Oil	240	-2 276	165

Oil Equipment & Services			
Hunting	650	+8 914	453
Petrofac	521	+8 663	381
Wood Gp(J)	518	+3 796	489

Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology			
AstraZeneca	6015	+21 6525	4955
BTG	834	+2 835	475
Decbra Pharma	2688	-40 3168	2014
Genus	2336	+4 2992	2098
GlaxoSmithKline	1554	+44 1621	1407
Hikma Pharma	1739	-82 2025	1184
Indivior	42	+2 496	30
PZ Cussons	191	+4 252	178
Reckitt Benckiser	5874	+51 7155	54

Who will really inherit from your Will?

3 simple steps you can take now to protect your hard-earned assets

“

'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the local authority get it all?'

Paul King, Head of April King Legal explains in these 3 simple steps...

1 Avoid unnecessary Care Fee Costs

A lot of people are still unaware that if they need social care in later life, their assets will be means tested by the local authority to help pay for these services. This goes back to the Community Care Act 1990.

If you require social care in later life, the local authority will look to use your assets until you get down to a lower limit, when the local authority will take over the fees.

There are many myths about how people can protect their assets from being used like this. The main one being that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true and your local authority will look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving property away, going back over any period in time.

Paul King explains how Bloodline Wills from April King can help "I leave my half of the house to our children but state that they do not inherit my half until both myself and my wife die. This way, if my wife needs care or remarries after my death then my half is safe for our children. My wife does the same in her Will.

It's important to note that nothing happens while myself and my wife are alive and we remain owners of our own home."

April King do not recommend so called Asset Protection Trusts which involve transferring your house to your children during your lifetime. This may be deemed to be deliberate deprivation and create more problems than you're trying to solve.

2 Keep it in the family with Bloodline Wills

Mirror Wills are when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of Wills leave a lot to chance.

Paul King says: "If I have a Mirror Will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death, then either the new husband or the local authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of our children. Even if our children are named in my Mirror Will it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything.

This is because a remarriage would cancel the Will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin. This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit.

The same is true for thinking that their children (our grandchildren) will one day benefit under our Mirror Wills. If any of our children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then our grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance".

Paul continues: "These things can be avoided by having a Bloodline Will. Under these types of specialist Wills from April King your children have complete control and access to the inheritance they receive from you, but they get added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life.

3 Maintain control with a Lasting Power of Attorney

The Lasting Power of Attorney is a relatively new introduction and is divided into two parts – one that deals with finance, while the other deals with health and welfare. In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise. It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also enables them to deal with matters such as where the parent should live and how they receive care. Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times. You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King can advise on the various options available to you.

Having a Lasting Power of Attorney removes the burden on children should ill-health happen further down the line. It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death. Crucially, you have to complete a Lasting Power of Attorney while you are still in good mental health.

If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for an order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process. It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family. The challenge is to avoid waiting until it is too late, and to act now instead.



Specialist Bloodline Wills from
April King
Legal

April King has prepared a **FREE**, no obligation, information pack which is available by visiting aprilking.co.uk or by calling us on

0800 044 3707

April King has offices nationwide. Visit our website to find your nearest one.
Lines open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat & Sun 9am-6pm



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Forfar
Portree
Lerwick



JEFF POWELL

Boxing Correspondent
in New York

He had too much too soon... now he just has his kit bag

TRAINER VIRGIL HUNTER CONFIDENT AMIR KHAN'S NEW HUMILITY CAN HELP HIM SPRING SURPRISE

THE moment Virgil Hunter saw Amir Khan walk into the gym carrying his own kit bag was when the American trainer began to believe that his British boxer can spring one of the ring's huge upsets.

Khan is a massive underdog for his world welterweight title challenge to the esteemed and undefeated Terence Crawford here at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night.

Hunter believes part of the reason for a wide disparity in the betting odds is that, for a time, one of his most gifted fighters lost touch with reality. The sight of Khan pitching up for training with his bag over his shoulder and alone, without any of his old entourage, has altered that perception.

'Amir is insanely talented,' says Hunter. 'But I think he had too much too soon. He used to come to the gym surrounded by friends and distractions. Now he comes just with his gear.'

'If you carry your own bag in this game, you are your own person. He's found himself now and we're going into the Garden to win; to surprise one of the top two pound-for-pound fighters in the world today.'

Khan's reaction to his trainer's assessment is fascinating. 'Wow, did Virgil really just say that as I walked in? Well, carrying the bag is a symbol.'

He acknowledged how some of the excesses of a fabulously enriched youth provoked public criticism — but now he has found humility.

In his maturity, at 32, he takes a wry look back at how he became a teenage millionaire on the back of winning his Olympic silver medal in 2004, then quickly found further fame and fortune as a two-time world champion.

'Maybe until five or six years ago I was the kid who had everything



Underdog: Khan (left) is put through his paces by Hunter as he chases a third world title GETTY IMAGES

very young,' says Khan. 'But now I've seen a big change in my attitude.'

The young Khan ran into trouble with the police for his high-speed driving and he says: 'Looking back I wonder why I did some things.'

'But I'd signed a big money contract at the age of 19. I like cars and watches and suddenly I was able to afford them.'

'At such a young age it can get to you. I might have come across as cocky because I wanted to show off how hard I had worked to get

these things. But I got a lot of hate for that. Hopefully, I've changed a lot of people's minds now.'

'Many who meet me for the first time are surprised to find that I'm down to earth. That's come with taking charge of my life.'

'When you have a big team you start relying on other people. But that's contrary to going into the ring, taking big punches and having to dig deep — all on your own.'

'I used to leave everything else to family and advisers but now I control my entire life; take care of

all business. That makes you a bigger man. Also when you go to work every day surrounded by other Olympic and world champions, you learn to be humble. Perhaps that's why more people love me now.'

Hunter recognises the change: 'Amir had people in his ear telling him how great he was.'

'He had some great wins and performances. He thought he'd arrived but once you do that, there's a danger you stop working to reach the very top. The illusion

of the moment can stop you looking ahead, which is the whole key in this sport. He didn't realise he hadn't yet fulfilled himself.'

Can that come against 31-year-old Crawford, the No2-rated fighter in the world who believes himself to be even better than the No1 pound-for-pounder, Ukrainian lightweight Vasyl Lomachenko?

If Khan is to join the elite ranks of the three-time world champions it will be despite suffering that thunderous knockout by Mexican Canelo Alvarez in May 2016, a fight Hunter advised against.

Khan has been rebuilding since the folly of moving up two weight divisions to middleweight to expose his supposedly vulnerable chin to one of the most powerful of punchers.

Hunter says: 'It broke my heart to see him lying there. It was a major setback that wasn't necessary. He was on a roll and could have won big fights and won more titles at light-welter and welterweight.'

'He tells me now that he didn't really want to fight Canelo but he has his pride and didn't want people thinking he was scared.'

'Even then he was boxing brilliantly and winning the fight, until he got caught with that huge right hand.'

Another lesson learned, the hard way. One which just might stand Khan in good stead against Crawford, who has only recently come up from light-welter himself to add the WBO welterweight belt to his impressive collection.

● **KHAN v CRAWFORD** is live on BT Sport Box Office late this Saturday night. Information at bt.com/btsportboxoffice

BEVERLEY RTV

2.15 —FIND PROMO CODES AT ACEODDS.COM EBF NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (DIV 1) (5) (2-Y-O) £6,400 added (£4,033) 5f (11)

1	(11)	THE GINGER BULLET R Fahey 9-5.....	Paul Hanagan	—
2	(10)	COCK ROBIN K Ryan 9-4.....	Kevin Stott	—
3	(8)	BIRDIE BOWERS M Dods 9-3.....	Paul Mulrennan	—
4	(8)	CHOCOLIC B Smart 9-3.....	Graham Lee	—
5	(4)	TONGUIN VALLEY B Ellison 9-3.....	K Schofield (7)	—
6	(9)	HELL OF A JOKER 18 (P) W G M Turner 9-2.....	R While (5)	—
7	(2)	62 BIRKENHEAD 15 (BF) M Channon 9-1.....	Callum Shepherd	●78
8	(7)	HOVINGHAM N Tinkler 9-1.....	Rowan Scott (3)	—
9	(6)	4 LEAVE EM ALONE 9 P Evans 8-11.....	J Fahy	70
10	(5)	SASSY LASSY David Loughane 8-11.....	T Whelan	—
11	(1)	2 BETTYS HOPE 14 B Millman 8-10.....	Joe Fanning	77

Probable SP: 2 Birkenhead, 7-2 Bettys Hope, 13-2 Leave Em Alone.

2018: Meeting abandoned due to Waterlogged course.

2.50 —FIND PROMO CODES AT ACEODDS.COM EBF NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (DIV 2) (5) (2-Y-O) £6,400 added (£4,033) 5f (10)

1	(2)	GIN GEMBRE 9 K Burke 9-5.....	Ben Curtis	—
2	(5)	TROUBADOR M Dods 9-3.....	Paul Mulrennan	—
3	(10)	COMETCHOO T Easterby 9-2.....	David Allan	—
4	(4)	NODDY SHUFFLE M W Easterby 9-2.....	Nathan Evans	—
5	(1)	PUERTO SOL B Ellison 9-2.....	Ben Robinson (3)	—
6	(3)	REDNEE TEE D O'Meara 9-2.....	C McGovern (3)	—
7	(9)	JAKODOBRO B Smart 9-1.....	Graham Lee	—
8	(6)	6 LILI WEN FACH 9 P Evans 8-12.....	J Fahy	—
9	(8)	NOSTALGIC AIR Mrs R Carr 8-11.....	James Sullivan	—
10	(7)	VODKA DAWN Philip Makin 8-11.....	Sam James	—

Probable SP: 9-4 Gin Gembre, 4 Lili Wen Fach, 11-2 Rodnee Tee.

3.25 —FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT BEVERLEY RACES HANDICAP (4) (3-Y-O) £9,597 added (£5,419) 1m 10f 20yds (6)

1	(1)	553231 GABRIEL THE ONE 177 (S) R Fahey 9-7.....	Sean Davis (5)	77
2	(3)	2L553 FRASER ISLAND 146 M Johnston 9-5.....	Joe Fanning	77
3	(4)	8-31 BOUTONNIERE 35 (D) A Balding 9-5.....	Joshua Bryan (3)	●78
4	(6)	5426 WHISKY AND WATER 22 (BF2) B Ellison 9-0.....	Ben Robinson (3)	76
5	(5)	64344 HOFFA 194 M Dods 8-12.....	Paul Mulrennan	77
6	(2)	3837 SIMON'S SMILE 145 K Burke 8-9.....	Ben Curtis	76

Probable SP: 9-4 Boutonniere, 5-2 Gabriel The One, 7-2 Whiskey And Water.

4.00 —GRAND LIT REMEMBERING LAURA BARRY HANDICAP (4) (3-Y-O) £9,597 added (£5,419) 7f 96yds (10)

1	(5)	731-2 ATTAINMENT 17 (DBF) J Tate 9-7.....	David Allan	●78
2	(12)	128-1 OLOROSO 25 (D) A Balding 9-6.....	Joshua Bryan (3)	75
3	(2)	4106-2 PACINO 21 R Fahey 9-5.....	Tony Hamilton	—
4	(7)	2215-4 AXE AXELROD 217 M Dods 9-5.....	Paul Mulrennan	73
5	(3)	421L-7 AZOR AHAI 21 (G) M Channon 9-5.....	Callum Shepherd	72
6	(4)	254-1 CITY TOUR 15 (D) G M Johnston 9-4.....	Joe Fanning	74
7	(6)	32303-2 LIGHTNING ATTACK 15 (P) R Fahey 9-4.....	Paul Hanagan	75
8	(9)	512247-7 STRONSAY 180 (D) S B Smart 9-2.....	Graham Lee	73
9	(10)	8061-6 JACKAMUNDU 15 (D) G Carroll 9-0.....	Kevin Stott	72
10	(1)	154L5 PEARL OF QATAR 208 (C) G B Ellison 8-10.....	Ben Robinson (3)	72

Probable SP: 7-2 Oloroso, 4 Attainment, 5 Lightning Attack, 6 Pacino, City Tour.

4.35 —HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY MY SPECIAL MUM KATHIE HANDICAP (3) £12,000 added (£7,470) 5f (8)

1	(3)	31112-4 SANDRA'S SECRET 2 (C&D2D2) (G) J L Eyre 6-9-10.....	NON RUNNER	—
2	(5)	243243-1 WENTWORTH FALLS 214 (D) G Harker 7-9-7.....	David Allan	77
3	(8)	41243L- LINE OF REASON 172 (C&DD5) (G) P Midgley 9-9-7.....	Joe Fanning	76
4	(4)	4023-LL TERUNTUM STAR 89 (D) (GS) K Ryan 7-9-6.....	Kevin Stott	76
5	(6)	26-2431 WATCHABLE 47 (P) (D) (G) M Johnston 9-4.....	David Nolan	●78
6	(3)	691418- BILLY DYLAN 207 (D4) (D) G O'Meara 9-4.....	C McGovern (3)	76
7	(7)	153060- RAPID APPLAUSE 172 (C&D) (S) M W Easterby 7-9-1.....	Nathan Evans	76
8	(1)	4126L2- AIRSHOW 205 (H) (S) M Appleby 4-8-10.....	Luke Morris	77

Probable SP: 9-4 Watchable, 11-4 Airshow, 3 Wentworth Falls, 10 Billy Dylan.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW

2.15	Birkenhead	2.50	Rodnee Tee
3.25	Gabriel The One	4.00	Attainment
4.35	Watchable	5.10	Archive
5.40	Mount Ararat	6.10	Elissoft

NORTHERNER — 2.50 GIN GEMBRE (nap); 5.10 Just Wait (nb).

5.10 —WESTWOOD HANDICAP (5) £7,840 added (£4,285) 1m 4f 23yds (12)

1	(5)	412-4 JUST WAIT 14 (D) (S) M Johnston 4-9-7.....	Joe Fanning	72
2	(3)	81/94L0- ACCESSOR 193 (S) M Dods 4-9-5.....	Paul Mulrennan	73
3	(11)	76244U- SEARCHING 231 (D) M K Tutty 7-9-2.....	NON RUNNER	—
4	(9)	11450-3 BIT OF A QUIRKE 8 (CS) (G) M Walford 6-9-1.....	Andrew Mullen	—
5	(1)	239-L41 ARCHIVE 8 (D) (G) B Ellison 9-9-1.....	Ben Robinson (3)	●78
6	(2)	6330-07 BE PERFECT 15 (P) (C&DD6) (G) M R Carr 10-9-1.....	James Sullivan	—

Probable SP: 9-2 Archive, 5 Bit Of A Quirke, 11-2 Just Wait, 7 Airplane.

5.40 —RACING TV NOVICE STAKES (5) £6,400 added (£4,140) 1m 100yds (9)

1	(5)	23 BLINDINGLY 47 B Haslam 4-9-5.....	Andrew Mullen	70
2	(2)	HEAVENLY SECRET J46 (T) T Coyle 4-9-5.....	Dougie Costello	74
3	(7)	322- KINGDOM BRUNEL 175 D O'Meara 4-9-5.....	David Nolan	72
4	(4)	334-44 MOUNT ARARAT 63 (P) K Burke 4-9-5.....	Ben Curtis	●78
5	(6)	L780L-9 PONTECARLO BOY 6 R M Whitaker 5-9-5.....	Joe Fanning	70
6	(8)	37- SPIORAD 196 D O'Meara 4-9-5.....	S Gray	70
7	(1)	0670-7L DUTCH MELODY 8 Lucinda Egerton 5-9-0.....	Victor Santos (7)	—
8	(3)	EMERALD FOX R Brisland 4-9-0.....	Luke Morris	—
9	(9)	552L- KATINKA 212 Archie Watson 4-9-0.....	Hollie Doyle	73

Probable SP: 9-4 Mount Ararat, 5-2 Kingdom Brunel, 4 Spiorad.

6.10 —RACING AGAIN NEXT THURSDAY FILLIES' HANDICAP (5) £7,840 added (£4,285) 1m 100yds (12)

1	(4)	513137- IDEAL CANDY 205 (H) (CD) (G) M R Tutty 4-9-9.....	S Gray	76
2	(12)	3L28-13 GAINSAY 9 (D) (G) J Portman 4-9-7.....	Nicola Currie	●78
3	(2)	14L-407 ALEXANDRAKOLLONTAI 19 (B) (D4) (GS) A Whillans 9-9-7.....	Connor Murtagh (5)	75
4	(7)	432122 ELIXSOFT 12 (P) (D) Roger Fell 4-9-6.....	Ben Curtis	—
5	(10)	2582-4 BUBBLY 95 M Loughane 4-9-1.....	Luke Morris	75
6	(1)	59L003- SHAZZAB 191 (D) (S) R Fahey 4-9-0.....	Paul Hanagan	75
7	(3)	035066- KYLIE RULES 205 Mrs R Carr 4-8-12.....	James Sullivan	76
8	(9)	3L4908- MAKE ON MADAM 205 (C&DD3) (G) J L Eyre 7-8-12.....	Joe Fanning	76
9	(8)	38128-6 ACADIAN ANGEL 9 (GS) Steph Hollinshead 5-8-12.....	Royston Ffrench	76
10	(5)	267L-8L DREAM ON DREAMER 16 (PT) Lucinda Egerton 5-8-2.....	V Santos (7)	—
11	(11)	OLL- ROUE DE CHARRETTE 151 (P) G Harker 4-8-2.....	Nathan Evans	61
12	(6)	902590- DOMINANNIE 165 R Barr 6-8-2.....	Andrew Mullen	72

Probable SP: 11-4 Elissoft, 4 Gainsay, Shazzab, 9-2 Bubbly, 8 Ideal Candy.

TRACK FACTS: R-H course. GOING: Good to firm-good in places.

STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low, particularly in sprints.

Top jockey: J Fanning. Top trainer: R Fahey. Headgear first time:

2.15 Hell Of A Joker, 5.40 Heavenly Secret, Mount Ararat, 6.10

Elissoft, Roue De Charrette. Longest traveller: Bettys Hope (2.15)

286 miles. Drop in Class: 2.15 Hell Of A Joker is down 2 grades on

last run (Class 3 to Class 5); 3.25 Whiskey And Water (2); 4.00 Axe

Axelrod (2). First run since wind surgery: 5.40 Kingdom Brunel.

GIMCRACK

2.15	The Ginger Bullet	2.50	Gin Gembre
3.25	Boutonniere	4.00	City Tour
4.35	Airshow	5.10	Archive
5.40	Kingdom Brunel	6.10	Bubbly

EXETER

2.05	ASK DILLON (Paddy Brennan) 2-1JtFav 1; Boldmere 8-1 2; Blackjack Kentucky 3-1 3. 9 ran. (P O'Brien) 81, 121. Tote: 2.80; 1.10, 2.40, 1.20. Ex: 16.60. Tf: 47.20. CSF: 19.32.
2.40	HERE'S HERBIE (James Best) 8-1 1; Nelson's Touch 16-1 2; Hattaab 2-1F 3. 8 ran. (Mrs S Gardner) 61, nk. Tote: 7.30; 2.30, 4.80, 2.40. Ex: 116.10. Tf: 353.72. Tf: 47.20. CSF: 115.37.
3.15	MELEKHOV (R Johnson) 5-6F 1; Quick Wave 5-1 2; Rocco River 7-2(2ndFav) 3. 13 ran. (P Hobbs) 11, 141. Tote: 1.60; 1.10, 1.40, 2.00. Ex: 5.40. Tf: 14.60. CSF: 5.53. NR: Corruption.
3.50	ONE OF US (Sam Twiston-Davies) 9-2(2ndFav) 1; Sandhurst Lad 7-1 2; You Say What 4-1F 3. 11 ran. (N Williams) 21, 1/4. Tote: 5.60; 1.80, 2.50, 2.10. Ex: 45.20. Tf: 137.35. Tf: 205.10. CSF: 36.60.
4.25	TUDORS TREASURE (Tom O'Brien) 11-4F 1; Kingston Mimosa 8-1 2; Rule The Ocean 11-2 3. 10 ran. (Robert Stephens) 11, 111. Tote: 3.70; 1.70, 2.30, 1.90. Ex: 21.40. Tf: 113.60. Tf: 102.90. CSF: 24.57.
5.00	THEATRE TERRITORY (Mr Sam Waley-Cohen) 1-4F 1; Drumlyn 13-2(2ndFav) 2; Kit Barry 20-1 3. 6 ran. (W Greatrex) 21, 1/4. Tote: 1.20; 1.10, 1.90. Ex: 2.90. Tf: 10.70. CSF: 2.82.
5.35	MERCHANT HOUSE (Miss Millie Wonnacott) 20-1 1; Full Of Rouge 12-1 2; Grumpy Charley 10-3(2ndFav) 3. 11 ran. (L Jefford) 31, 3/4. Tote: 27.10; 8.00, 4.30, 1.30. Ex: 396.00. Tf: 289.40. CSF: 239.97.
Placepot	£10.60. Q'pot £3.20.

NEWMARKET

(5) £6,400 added (100	
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Probable SP: 11-4 Elissoft, 4 Gainsay, Shazzab, 9-2 Bubbly, 8 Ideal Candy.

TRACK FACTS: R-H course. GOING: Good to firm-good in places.

STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low, particularly in sprints.

Top jockey: J Fanning. Top trainer: R Fahey. Headgear first time:

2.15 Hell Of A Joker, 5.40 Heavenly Secret, Mount Ararat, 6.10

Elissoft, Roue De Charrette. Longest traveller: Bettys Hope (2.15)

286 miles. Drop in Class: 2.15 Hell Of A Joker is down 2 grades on

last run (Class 3 to Class 5); 3.25 Whiskey And Water (2); 4.00 Axe

Axelrod (2). First run since wind surgery: 5.40 Kingdom Brunel.

RACING RESULTS

91. Tote: 2.40; 1.20, 1.20, 2.60. Ex: 6.00. Tf: 37.10. CSF: 4.34.
1.50 — FLAVIUS TITUS (Andrea Atzeni) 8-1(Co2ndFav) 1; Summerghand 8-1(Co2ndFav) 2; Green Power 7-1F 3. 15 ran. (R Varian) nk, nk. Tote: 8.60; 2.50, 3.30, 2.50. Ex: 89.90. Tf: 489.63. Tf: 677.80. CSF: 67.28.
2.25 — SHINE SO BRIGHT (Silvestre De Sousa) 5-2(2ndFav) 1; Space Traveller 10-1 2; Azano 2-1F 3. 7 ran. (A Balding) 1/4, 3/4. Tote: 3.30; 1.60, 4.40. Ex: 22.70. Tf: 83.40. CSF: 25.74.
3.00 — KICK ON (Oisin Murphy) 2-1(2ndFav) 1; Walkintessand 14-1 2; Boerhan 13-2 3. 6 ran.

Qabala takes lead in 1,000 Guineas field

RACING

MARCUS TOWNEND

Racing Correspondent
at Newmarket

QABALA leapt to the head of the betting for the Qipco 1,000 Guineas with a decisive victory in the Lanwades Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket yesterday. The Roger Varian-trained filly, who beat her stablemate Mot Juste by a length and a quarter, gave jockey David Egan the biggest win of his career.

An open 1,000 Guineas market had reflected the fact that no filly had been able to lay down emphatic claims.

It has been an ante-post market crying out for direction and that in part explained why Qabala, who won on her Newmarket debut in September, was as short as 9-2 favourite last night with



On song: Qabala GETTY IMAGES

Mot Juste 20-1. Varian believes Qabala can improve for the run but also put in a good word for Mot Juste.

The 40-year-old trainer said: 'Qabala has not come in her coat yet and I nearly didn't run her. She will look different in her appearance next time she races.'

'Mot Juste ran a great race. She went there to win her race and got a bit tired up the hill before getting her second wind. They are two nice fillies.' Trainer William Haggas will step up Oaks entry Maqsad in class after she opened her account in the maiden. Haggas said: 'She is a nice filly who disappointed me last year.'

FOR TODAY'S RUNNERS AND RIDERS - PAGES 72-73

Morgan impressed by Archer but vows to make best decision for side

WE WON'T BOTTLE THE BIG CALL

On a roll: Archer's a brilliant death bowler

EXCLUSIVE By LAWRENCE BOOTH

ENGLAND will not shy away from making tough decisions when they finalise their 15-man squad for this summer's World Cup, according to captain Eoin Morgan.

The preliminary party is named today, but it can be changed any time up to a week before the tournament starts on May 30 — with Barbados-born fast bowler Jofra Archer the likeliest beneficiary.

Archer will be included in a separate squad of 17 for next month's five-match one-day series against Pakistan, and seems certain to force his way into the final World Cup party in time for England's tournament opener against South Africa at the Oval. That would mean leaving out one of the players chosen in the initial 15, with Liam Plunkett, Tom Curran and Joe Denly among the vulnerable.

But Morgan (below), who has led his side to the top of the one-day rankings on the back of nine bilateral series wins in a row, insisted his players understand personal ambition comes second to England's goal of winning their first 50-over World Cup.

'I've never been at a selection meeting which hasn't been difficult,' he told *Sportsmail*. 'We're trying to fit 18 or 19 guys into a 15-man squad: it's extremely difficult, but it's something the changing room are used to.'

'We'll always make the best decision for the side to move forward and get better.'

The 24-year-old Archer's prospects have been enhanced by his skill in the death overs — one of the few areas in which England are yet to excel.

Playing for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL yesterday, he finished with figures of 4-0-15-3 against Kings XI Punjab, including the wicket of Chris Gayle. Morgan admitted: 'The strongest point throughout his career

ENGLAND'S INITIAL 15-MAN WORLD CUP SQUAD (PROBABLE)

Eoin Morgan (capt), Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler, Tom Curran, Joe Denly, Alex Hales, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

has been his T20 skills. I've played against him a lot in T20 cricket. His death bowling is outstanding and he bowls with pace.'

But Archer's shoe-horning into the squad will not be without its complications. England have made late changes to World Cup plans before, usually without success, and disappointment lurks for whichever member of their bowling unit makes way.

Speaking at an event to publicise the UNICEF charity's #OneDay4Children initiative at the World Cup, all-rounder Chris Woakes told the BBC: 'If he was to come in and someone was to miss out, it would be extremely unfortunate. It probably wouldn't be fair, morally, but at the same time it's the nature of international sport.'

Woakes took to Twitter to complain that his words had been taken out of context. It is understood he intended to be loyal to team-mates who have been in the side during England's journey from one-day also-rans to World Cup favourites — not critical of Archer's inclusion.

Mark Wood likened the situation to the arrival of Colombia's Faustino Asprilla at Newcastle United in 1996. They were top of the Premier League at the time, only to fall away.

However, national selector Ed Smith will explain today that the door has been shut on anyone. The 50-over Royal London One-Day Cup starts today, with the prize of a World Cup spot up for grabs should injury or form demand a change to the 15.



GETTY IMAGES

BIG-MONEY SEASON FINALE SET TO LEAVE LONDON'S O2

BRITAIN is set to lose one of its best attended sports events with November's ATP Tour World Finals expected to leave London. Turin is the unlikely favourite to take over as host to the season's top eight male singles players and doubles teams, with an announcement expected this month.

The O2 Arena has been a hugely successful host for the event since 2009, with annual crowds of around 250,000 over the week putting it comfortably in the top 10 of biggest aggregate crowds in this country.

TENNIS

MIKE DICKSON

Tennis Correspondent in Monte Carlo

The battle to host the season-end finale from 2021 onwards has come down to a contest between Turin and Tokyo, with the Italian bid in the driving seat despite fears over the state of the country's economy. Although Italy's best player, Fabio Fognini, is only an outside bet to ever make the field, it has several things in its favour. The

tour winds up every November with events in Europe — the Paris Masters being the last regular stop — and Turin would avoid a long-haul trip for the players to the Far East.

The ATP are also said to have received financial guarantees from the Italian federation, backed by municipal funding, of around €75million (£65m) over five years. The alpine city's Pala Alpitour would be the new venue, with a capacity of around 15,000.

The O2 Arena has benefited from the era of the Big Four but Andy

Murray's future participation looks unlikely, even though he posted a video of himself playing golf this week and swinging comfortably through his hip. Historically the year-end finals have always moved around, and the stay in London — still guaranteed for two more years — was longer than expected. Meanwhile in Monte Carlo, British No 2 Cameron Norrie made light of only arriving from Houston on Friday night to score a good win on his debut in this event, beating Frenchman Adrian Mannarino 6-4, 6-3.

Novak Djokovic received a code violation for smashing his racket en route to a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 win against German veteran Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Afterwards the Serb was asked about a far-fetched recent suggestion from compatriot Janko Tipsarevic that the Grand Slams might one day move from their current venues.

'Everything in life is possible,' ventured Djokovic, before adding: 'They're over 120-plus years old, and we of course have to respect the history and tradition and everything.'

BILLY BROKE THE KIDS' TV RULE

RFU reprimand Vunipola for flouting contract guidelines

BILLY VUNIPOLA was reprimanded by the RFU for flouting guidelines set out in his contract which warn England 'role models' to behave on social media as if they were on children's television.

The England No8, 26, escaped a fine or ban for his Instagram post — which includes the phrase 'man was made for woman to procreate'. He has issued no apology and it is still online with more than 8,000 'likes'.

But he was handed a formal warning by the RFU, his second such slap-on-the-wrist after Saracens handed out a similar sanction, a stain which will remain on his record for five years and may be brought up in any future cases.

And *Sportsmail* can reveal details of the RFU social media guidelines which Vunipola appears to have breached — hence why the union had to act.

This season's four-page guide, which has been seen by this newspaper, is included in all England contracts and signed by players each year.

One of the 35 points advises that players should 'think of everything you put on social media as being like broadcasting on kids' TV — and remember you will be regarded as a role model by the public and the media whether you like it or not'.

While the guidelines for England players in relation to their social media activity are due to be updated prior to the World Cup, *Sportsmail* understands that the management will not impose a blackout during the tournament. Members of the squad will be urged to take responsibility for their public comments while in the Far East, but they will not be barred from posting messages.

Aside from that, the key element relating to the Vunipola case is a point which reads: 'Do not use abusive, indecent or insulting words yourself. This includes any inappropriate references to ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith or religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. By sharing or retweeting anything of this nature, you become responsible for its content.'

As these are merely guidelines, and not hard and fast rules, Vunipola is not in breach of his RFU contract but he will have been reminded of these elements he



EXCLUSIVE
by **WILL KELLEHER**

has signed up to. Indeed, the RFU statement issued yesterday concluded that Vunipola 'has been reminded of his responsibilities as an England player and as an ambassador for the game, which values inclusivity and respect'. Vunipola's ill-advised messages, which he posted on Friday morning, were in support of homophobic Australian full back Israel Folau, who said 'hell awaits' gay people.

The union warned him under rule 5.12, which they used to caution Danny Cipriani last September, for his arrest when on a Gloucester pre-season night out in Jersey. It concerns 'conduct prejudicial to the interests of the union or the game'.

'During the meeting the player expressed genuine regret at his public comments and understood that he had caused hurt and offence as a result of his actions,' read the RFU statement.

England players have breached these social media guidelines before.

In 2016 former England prop Joe Marler also received a formal warning by the RFU — although it fell under a different disciplinary regulation.

He then tweeted: 'Bob Dwyer is a w*****' in response to the former Australia coach who claimed England cheated at the scrum, before deleting it.

At Saracens, head coach Mark McCall expects Munster fans to boo Vunipola in the Heineken Champions Cup semi-final this Saturday as Bristol supporters did last weekend.

'It's better to expect it to happen, and then wait and see,' said the Northern Irishman, who expects Vunipola to start the game from No8.

'He has got to deal with that, and we've got to deal with that as a group. Billy's sensitive, but he's also strong. He's got a group who support their team-mates.'



Back on track: Billy Vunipola at Saracens training yesterday
GETTY IMAGES

FOR ALL BREAKING SPORTS NEWS VISIT
dailymail.co.uk/sport

78

BILLY VUNIPOLA has won 78 per cent of the games he has played for England in the Six Nations. He made his debut in the competition in 2014 against France in Paris.

Cram's BBC conundrum

STEVE CRAM may be forced to quit his post as the BBC's lead commentator if he wants to become the new chairman of UK Athletics.

Both Cram and the BBC have been silent on the 58-year-old former middle-distance star's application for the post but insiders believe BBC bosses will tell him he will 'have to make some big decisions' if chosen to be the successor to Richard Bowker. According to the BBC's editorial guidelines, such a conflict of interest is

ATHLETICS

not permitted, raising the question of whether Cram would give up a BBC job that pays him several hundred thousand pounds a year to become a chairman, with an income of £40,000 per annum. Cram has high-level support for the role and is on a shortlist being considered by a UKA selection committee. He will be told this week if he has an interview.

MATT LAWTON

ANTI-DOPING IGNORED IN SUPERLEAGUE

NETBALL

LAURA LAMBERT

and March 2018, but there have been no in-competition tests in the Superleague since 2014. Since April 2018, only two tests in netball have been undertaken by UKAD, which were in-competition tests on behalf of the International Netball Federation (INF). *Sportsmail* understands there will be testing at the this year's Netball World Cup in Liverpool, but the contract has not been finalised. Scotland captain Claire Maxwell responded to UKAD's testing

figures by telling BBC Sport: 'We are all clean. If they wanted to bring in more drug testing in Superleague, go for it.' Last night, England Netball — the governing body — were unavailable for comment but attempted to pin the responsibility for testing on UKAD, insisting they must ensure Superleague testing takes place. They said that players and non-playing support staff undergo an education programme and players have to attend a UKAD-run '100% Me' course. They said England Netball sign up to the World Anti-Doping Agency code via the INF.

ENGLAND Netball face questions over their anti-doping commitments, after new figures showed no in-competition drugs tests have been carried out in the Vitality Netball Superleague in the last five years. The domestic competition, which is broadcast on Sky, includes several members of the England squad who won Commonwealth gold last April and many other top international players. Yet testing statistics published by the UK Anti-Doping Agency (UKAD) showed they carried out 12 out-of-competition tests for England Netball between January



BATTLE TO BEAT DROP

BRIGHTON (17th)

Saturday: Wolves.....(a)
Tuesday: Tottenham.....(a)
Apr 27: Newcastle.....(h)
May 4: Arsenal.....(a)
May 12: Man City.....(h)

CARDIFF (18th)

Sunday: Liverpool.....(h)
Apr 27: Fulham.....(a)
May 4: Crystal Palace.....(h)
May 12: Man United.....(a)



MARVELLOUS MENDEZ-LAING! 22 MINS

SHOT DISTANCE: 22 YDS

TIME FROM BOOT TO GOAL: 0.9 SEC

SPEED OF SHOT: 50 MPH

Too good:
Ryan is beaten
by a screamer
from Mendez-
Laing (third
from right)

GETTY IMAGES

GREAT ESCAPE IS ON!

Cardiff finally get some luck to leave Hughton in trouble

NEIL WARNOCK had called for a comeback in the style of Tiger Woods. What he got on an evening of renewed hope was something he considered far more unlikely — a penalty decision in his favour.

Not just a small one, either. It was a biggie. So significant, perhaps, that when the scrapping is done, it might just trace back as the key moment if Cardiff pull off a great escape and Brighton succumb to a great collapse.

That is because for all the world it appeared Brighton should have had a penalty at 0-0, 10 minutes in. Bruno Manga had his hands all over Lewis Dunk at a set-piece, clear as day, and when Dunk hit the deck, it was with no little force. It was a pull and a pretty hefty one, but unlike against Chelsea at home and Burnley away, this one went for Cardiff.

They say these calls even out over a season; this call might have saved Cardiff's, given it was the platform from which Nathaniel Mendez-Laing scored a beauty for 1-0 and Sean Morrison got the second goal for security.

On that front, consider how unusual it was for this team with



RIATH AL-SAMARRAI
at the Amex Stadium

BRIGHTON	0
CARDIFF	2
Mendez-Laing 22	
Morrison 50	

six defeats in their previous seven games to score twice. Cardiff had scored only nine away goals all season and last won a top-flight fixture away from home by two goals in 1956, when Warnock was seven. Fine timing to get it so right on a night when defeat would have meant near-certain relegation.

Instead, they can see the faintest of gaps between the branches and the ball is just about visible in the thick rough. They are two points down on Brighton, who have a game in hand, but that is a night-and-day difference from eight, as it would have been had they lost here.

'So many pundits this morning said it would be our last game in

the Premier League but we're alive and kicking,' said Warnock.

'I've never lost belief that we'd win games. Whether we'd get enough points, I'm not sure. Today we were 100-1 on with someone to be relegated. At least now it makes Sunday's game against Liverpool more important. We're not relegated yet.'

Brighton's position somehow feels no less perilous, partly because of their form — 12 points from a possible 54 — and also because each of the two clubs has a horrible run-in. Cardiff face Liverpool, Fulham, Crystal Palace and Manchester United, and Brighton are up against Wolves, Tottenham, Newcastle, Arsenal and Manchester City and have just suffered a fifth straight defeat in all competitions. It's their worst run in 12 years — less than fine timing.

Understandably, Hughton was less than impressed by the penalty decision, saying: 'At the time I wasn't sure, but I've seen it since. It's a definite penalty.'

Warnock, for his part, just about agreed, but felt his side were denied one of their own. Some things will never change.

On Brighton's predicament, Hughton added: 'As a team, as a club, and as individual players, there is only one way we can ensure we stay in this division: that's by fighting as hard as we

can, making sure that, if we're not able to score the goals we need, that we're not conceding.'

'I do believe we will stay up because I have to. It's in our own hands. It's been a really bad week, and it's not a nice feeling, but we have to use that in whichever way we can to get the points we need to stay in this division.'

The urgency of Brighton's situation was conveyed in Hughton's team selection — five changes were made to the side trounced 5-0 by Bournemouth. Warnock made three to the one beaten at Burnley and will feel a degree of satisfaction from two of them — Joe Ralls and Mendez-Laing — being key to the opening goal.

It was Ralls who ended a Brighton attack with a firm challenge in his own half and then sprang the counter in which Junior Hoilett surged down the left and played in-field to Mendez-Laing. After a couple of touches he curled from 25 yards into the top right corner. For a team who have been accused of lacking grace, it was a lovely looking goal.

Brighton missed several chances before the break and then went 2-0 down at the start of the second half, when poor marking by Dunk left Morrison free to head in a Victor Camarasa free-kick. Cardiff have found some hope. Brighton find themselves in the long grass.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool.....	34	26	7	1	77	20	57	85
Man City.....	33	27	2	4	86	22	64	83
Tottenham.....	33	22	1	10	64	34	30	67
Arsenal.....	33	20	6	7	66	40	26	66
Chelsea.....	34	20	6	8	57	36	21	66
Man Utd.....	33	19	7	7	63	44	19	64
Leicester.....	34	14	5	15	46	45	1	47
Wolves.....	33	13	8	12	41	42	-1	47
Everton.....	34	13	7	14	46	44	2	46
Watford.....	33	13	7	13	47	48	-1	46
West Ham.....	34	12	6	16	42	52	-10	42
Bournemouth.....	34	12	5	17	49	61	-12	41
Cardiff.....	34	11	6	17	40	46	-6	39
Burnley.....	34	11	6	17	42	60	-18	39
Newcastle.....	34	10	8	16	32	43	-11	38
Southampton.....	33	9	9	15	39	54	-15	36
Brighton.....	33	9	6	18	32	53	-21	33
Cardiff.....	34	9	4	21	30	63	-33	31
Fulham (R).....	34	5	5	24	32	76	-44	20
Hudders'f'd (R).....	34	3	5	26	19	67	-48	14

BRIGHTON (4-4-1-1): Ryan 6; Bruno 7, Duffy 6.5, Dunk 5, Bernardo 6; Jahanbakhsh 5.5 (Izquierdo 5, 69min), Stephens 5.5, Propper 6, March 7; Gross 5.5 (Andone 54, 6); Murray 5.5. Subs not used: Button, Burn, Bong, Kayal, Locadia.

Booked: None.
Manager: Chris Hughton 5.5.

CARDIFF (4-2-3-1): Etheridge 7; Peltier 5, Morrison 8, Manga 6, Bennett 7; Gunnarsson 6.5 (Bacuna 54, 6), Ralls 7; Mendez-Laing 7.5 (Harris 80), Camarasa 6.5, Hollett 6.5; Niasse 6 (Zohore 86). Subs not used: Murphy, Reid, Murphy, Healey.

Scorers: Mendez-Laing 22, Morrison 50.
Booked: Bennett.
Manager: Neil Warnock 7.

Referee: Andre Marriner 5.
Attendance: 30,226

SPORT IN BRIEF

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

QUARTER-FINAL, SECOND LEGS

BARCELONA.....(0) 3 MAN UTD.....(0) 0

Messi 16, 20, Coutinho 61 96,708

Aggr: 4-0

JUVENTUS.....(0) 1 AJAX.....(0) 2

Ronaldo 28 Van de Beek 34

Aggr: 2-3 De Ligt 67

PREMIER LEAGUE

BRIGHTON.....(0) 0 CARDIFF.....(0) 2

30,226 Mendez-Laing 22

Morrison 50

LADBROKES SCOTTISH CH'SHIP

MORTON.....(0) 2 INVERNESS CT.....(0) 2

Lyon 27 McDonald 18

Kittie 42 (pen) McCauley 88 1,315

BASEBALL

MLB — Boston Red Sox 1 Baltimore

Orioles 8, Chicago White Sox 5 Kansas

City Royals 4, Los Angeles Dodgers

3 Cincinnati Reds 3, Miami Marlins 2

Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee Brewers 10

St Louis Cardinals 7, Minnesota

Twins 3 Toronto Blue Jays 5,

Philadelphia Phillies 6 New York Mets 7

(11 Innings), San Diego Padres 2

Colorado Rockies 5, Seattle Mariners 4

Cleveland Indians 6, Texas Rangers 12

LA Angels 7.

BASKETBALL

NBA — Play-offs 1st Rnd (best-of-7 series), Eastern Conference:

Philadelphia 76ers 145 Brooklyn Nets 123 (Series level 1-1).

Western Conference: Golden State Warriors 131 LA Clippers 135 (Series tied 1-1).

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Scholes betting charge

PAUL SCHOLES has been charged by the FA with breaching betting rules while he was a co-owner and director at Salford City.

He could face a fine or even a ban after allegedly placing 140 bets between August 2015 and January this year.

The news comes just four weeks after Scholes resigned as manager of Oldham Athletic following a tempestuous 31-day tenure.

Prior to that, he had avoided controversy. But during the 2014 World Cup he worked as a columnist and tipster for a prominent bookmaker and an FA statement yesterday suggests he is an active gambler.

Scholes declined to comment last night and there was no word from BT Sport, who employ the 44-year-old as a pundit.

The FA statement read: 'Paul Scholes has been charged with misconduct in relation to The FA's Betting Rules. It is alleged he placed 140 bets on football matches, contrary to FA Rule E8, between 17 August 2015 and 12 January 2019. He has until 26 April 2019 to respond to the charge.'

Scholes (right) is part of United's 'Class of 92' quintet along with Gary and Phil Neville, Ryan Giggs and Nicky Butt, who took over Salford in



By **MATT LAWTON**
and **MIKE KEEGAN**

March 2014. At the time Salford were in Division One North of the Northern Premier League but after successive promotions are now pushing for the National League title.

Scholes, who retired as a player in 2013, was briefly joint caretaker manager of the club with the now England women's coach Phil Neville in 2015. He resigned as a Salford director in February to become Oldham boss but retains a 10 per cent stake in the club.

The FA have strict gambling rules, banning anyone involved in football to bet on matches — regardless of whether they involve clubs they are connected to.

But insiders suggest this case does not compare in potential seriousness to that of Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge, who was charged with a breach of betting rules in November 2018 and faces a hearing in the next few weeks.

In April 2017, Joey Barton was banned for 18 months from competing in the sport at any level, having made 30 bets that included clubs that he was involved with at the time.

For a breach of Rule E8, Peterborough director of football Barry Fry was suspended from football for four months, three months of which were suspended for two years.



Still smiling:
Barton at
Fleetwood
training
yesterday
MAVERICK

BARTON POLICE QUIZ

POLICE have contacted Fleetwood Town following allegations that their manager Joey Barton assaulted his Barnsley counterpart Daniel Stendel. Officers have yet to speak to the former Manchester City player but yesterday approached his club with a view to doing so. South Yorkshire Police are investigating the claims following an alleged tunnel fracas after Barnsley's 4-2 victory over Fleetwood at Oakwell on Saturday. They have already spoken to Stendel, who was left with damage to two teeth and required emergency dental treatment. Insiders allege that Stendel was hurt after Barton barged him from

behind into a metal support. Yesterday, Barnsley confirmed that they had made complaints about the matter to both the English Football League and FA. Neither manager is likely to face the media this week. Barnsley assistant coach Dale Tonge is due to speak to reporters today about the Good Friday game with Shrewsbury. Stendel is expected to address the media post-match. Fleetwood's press conference, ahead of their clash with Peterborough, is tomorrow, though Barton is unlikely to attend. He was pictured smiling and laughing with the squad as he took training yesterday.

MIKE KEEGAN

United stunned as Butt arrested

From Back Page

credited with bringing through striker Marcus Rashford. Butt is a highly regarded former England World Cup star who is expected to set an example to the next generation of United heroes. His arrest left Old Trafford officials — who were concentrating on a hugely important night for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and his squad in Catalonia — hurriedly trying to establish details of what had taken place.

Butt won six Premier League titles, three FA Cups and a Champions League with United, for whom he made his debut in 1992.

He also played for Newcastle and Birmingham, and won 39 England caps. He is a co-owner of National League side Salford City.

Born and raised in the Manchester suburb of Gorton, Butt married Shelley Barlow in 2008. The pair have two children.

A Greater Manchester Police spokesman said: 'Police were called at around 2pm to reports that a woman had been assaulted at a house on Broadway, Hale.'

'The woman received a small cut to her hand. A 44-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of assault and remains in custody for questioning.'

Snodgrass banned and fined by FA

ROBERT SNODGRASS has been fined £30,000 and banned for one game for verbally abusing drug testers at West Ham's training ground.

Snodgrass appears to have become embroiled in a dispute with testers despite claims from club insiders that he was not selected for a test nor did he refuse one.

Yesterday the FA demonstrated that such an attitude towards officers serving to protect the integrity of sport was completely unacceptable.

On what proved a busy day for the FA's disciplinary officials, Everton's Andre Gomes was banned for three matches after accepting a charge of violent conduct. In an incident that was missed by match officials but caught on video, Gomes stamped on Fulham forward Aleksandar Mitrovic in the 95th minute of last Saturday's Premier League clash at Craven Cottage. Gomes made a late challenge and appeared to slam his studs into Mitrovic's ankle while the Serb was lying on the ground. The clash was not seen by referee Lee Probert.

MATT LAWTON

HENNESSEY 'DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT NAZIS'

WAYNE HENNESSEY has been cleared of allegedly performing a Nazi salute after insisting he did 'not even know what one was'.

An FA report said the Crystal Palace goalkeeper displayed a 'lamentable degree of ignorance' in claiming he did not know anything about Adolf Hitler, fascism and the Nazi regime.

Hennessey was captured on camera holding his right arm outstretched with his left hand under his nose during a team dinner in Mayfair on January 5.

An FA investigation into the picture, posted on social media, revealed shocking details about Hennessey's lack of historical knowledge.

The governing body's regulatory commission released their findings yesterday, saying: 'Mr Hennessey categorically denied that he was giving a

By **MATTHEW SMITH**

Nazi salute. Indeed, from the outset he said that he did not even know what one was. 'Improbable as that may seem to those of us of an older generation, we do not reject that assertion as untrue. In fact, when cross-examined about this Mr Hennessey displayed a very considerable — one might even say lamentable — degree of ignorance about anything to do with Hitler, fascism and the Nazi regime.

'Regrettable though it may be that anyone should be unaware of so important a part of our own and world history, we do not feel we should therefore find he was not telling the truth about this.

'All we would say (at the risk of sounding patronising) is that Mr Hennessey would be well advised to familiarise himself with events which continue to



Ignorant: Hennessey makes the controversial gesture

have great significance to those who live in a free country.'

Hennessey claimed he had raised his arm to attract a waiter's attention and cupped his hand around his mouth to make his voice carry further. The FA said they had compared Hennessey raising his arm to attract the attention of his

defence during matches to the way he raised his arm in the photograph in order to establish whether he was telling the truth. They found there were similarities, and after a day's deliberations the panel decided by a majority verdict to dismiss the charge. The report also reveals that various Palace team-mates who were at the dinner that followed their FA Cup third-round win over Grimsby Town gave evidence in support of Hennessey. These included Max Meyer, Andros Townsend and Wilfried Zaha, as well as manager Roy Hodgson, who 'spoke of Mr Hennessey's good character.'

Palace also conducted an internal investigation, in which they also cleared Hennessey of wrongdoing — although the FA report scathingly comments this was 'an investigation which did not impress us'.

Liverpool need to add trophies to the tributes

LIVERPOOL arrived in Portugal late last night to be greeted by a compliment from Porto manager Sergio Conceicao that was as unexpected as it was gushing.

'I like their game model,' Conceicao purred, while Liverpool were in transit. 'I like the way they play and the way they are with the ball — and without it also. It is similar to how I see football. In a lot of these moments in a game, they are the best team in the world.'

They were, as Jurgen Klopp and James Milner were quick to recognise, nice words but while Liverpool's manager raised an eyebrow about the legitimacy of the sentiment — an attempt, perhaps, to lure them into a false sense of security — his vice-captain went about pulling the claim apart.

Though Liverpool's form is blistering and they are odds-on to reach the Champions League semi-finals, having beaten Porto 2-0 in their first meeting at Anfield last Tuesday, one major facet must change for Conceicao's words to have real substance. Milner was only too eager to point this out.

'You get those compliments by playing good football over a sustained period of time,' said Milner, whose calming presence will be crucial in the Estadio do Dragao tonight. 'But to be that, I think you have to win trophies. That's something we haven't done yet and it's something we are trying to do. Not getting over the line is disappointing, but we have the opportunity to change that. That first one is always the hardest.'

'It's down to us to prove it and win these games — and hopefully win at least one trophy this season. There are a lot of good teams between us and the last game of the season. We have to keep improving and keep playing like we are doing at the moment.'

Milner emphasised that Liverpool have reached three finals since he has been at Anfield and there can be no doubting they are progressing, as a sequence of seven consecutive wins since March 3 shows, but they need to be remembered for more than just the quality of their football. Those questions could be answered emphatically before the end of the campaign and the

DOMINIC KING reports from Oporto

odds on them completing the double of Premier League and Champions League are contracting with each positive result but Milner is not getting carried away.

First things first, they have to hold off Porto. Liverpool won by five unanswered goals at this venue last February but they will need to be equally proficient if they are to reach the last four once again. Milner is a good gauge to the mood in the squad and, certainly, he is not distracted.

'There isn't too much talk about what's going on and what might happen,' said Milner. 'It's how we've been all season. We are training the same way, the mentality going into the games is the same, that's what we can concentrate on, one game at a time and keep pushing.'

'It's a massive positive in the dressing room that every game is just like the next game. There is plenty of talk outside the dressing room and in the media and social media, so it's hard to get away from it. But the lads are focusing on what we can control.'

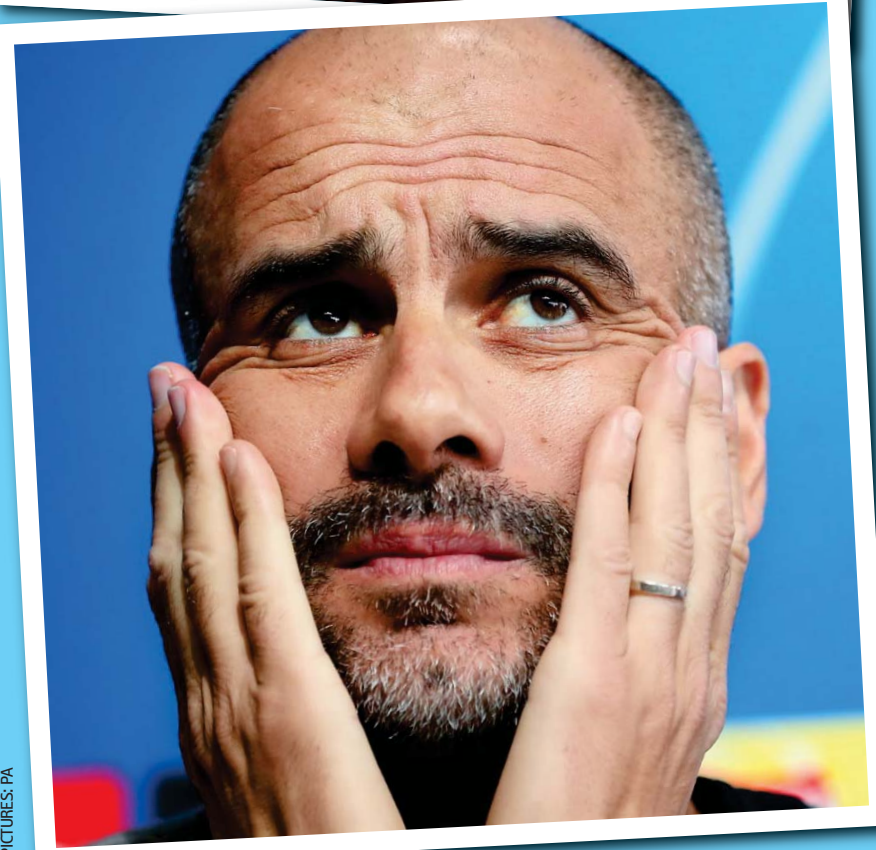
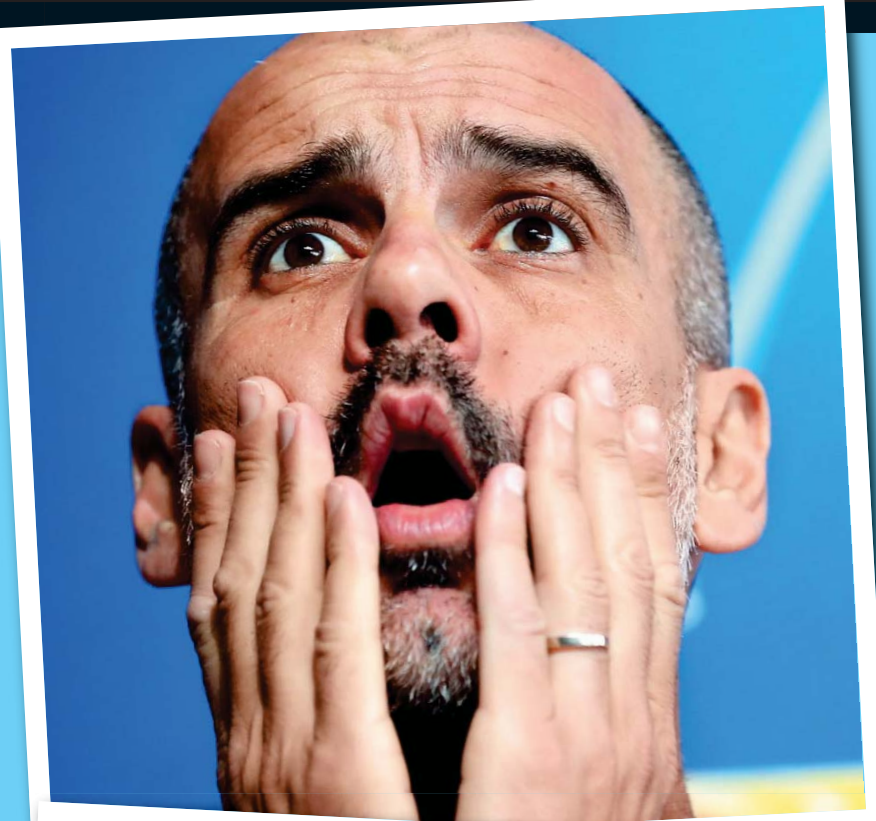
The second leg should feature a fascinating battle between Porto's fast-raiding and tough Brazilian left back Alex Telles and Mo Salah, fresh from his stunning goal against Chelsea on Sunday.

Yet one major thing in Liverpool's favour is the fact that they have been so resilient defensively. They had little trouble keeping Bayern Munich at bay last month in Germany and the last time they let a two-goal lead slip to lose a match was at Bournemouth in December 2016. That, however, has not stopped Klopp reinforcing the message that nothing has been decided.

'I always tell the boys the truth when I analyse,' said Klopp. 'I don't make things bigger or smaller than they are.'

'When we play Manchester City, I don't say they have no clue about football or say it's the best team in the world. We analyse for us.'

'There's no risk that I need to convince the boys that Porto are really good. They know it already. We played Roma and they can be an uncomfortable opponent but I didn't really see a chance for them when they played Porto (in the last 16). Porto were in control. So we should be prepared.'



PICTURES: PA



Tough: Telles

WATCHING BRIEF...

PORTO (0) v LIVERPOOL (2)

(probable teams)
Kick-off: 8pm
Estadio do Dragao.
TV & Radio: **LIVE** on BT Sport 3 from 7.15pm and talkSPORT.

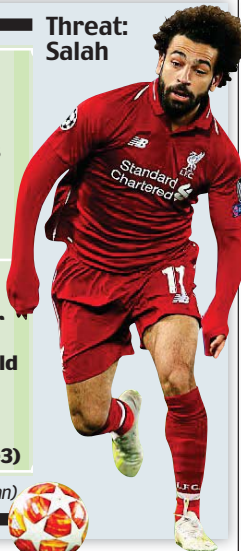
Referee: Danny Makkelie (Hol).

Porto have won their last four CL games at home.

(4-3-3)			Casillas		
			Pepe Militao		
Corona				Telles	
Danilo		Torres		Herrera	
Marega		Soares		Brahimi	
Mane		Firmino		Salah	
Wijnaldum		Fabinho		Milner	
Robertson		Alexander-Arnold			
			Van Dijk Matip		
			Alisson (4-3-3)		

(Name in yellow = one yellow card from ban)

Threat: Salah



TIME FOR PEP TO ROLL THE DICE

Only two wins in four days will do for City boss as he goes for broke to keep Quadruple dream alive



by **JACK GAUGHAN**

A DIFFERENT way of passing the time is emerging inside the Manchester City dressing room as Pep Guardiola's players hunt for fresh ways to relax. Benjamin Mendy has introduced the South American dice game, Perudo, to his team-mates and four new boxes arrived at the City Football Academy this week.

A hit with France's World Cup winners last summer, Perudo encourages high-risk strategies and celebrates the art of bluffing. Both are traits their manager revels in deploying — particularly in the Champions League.

Kidology was very much at play before a tantalising double-header with Tottenham, as he sarcastically agreed that not lifting the Champions League would be considered a failure.

What he could not dispute is that City need to roll the dice this week. Guardiola described the two home games against Spurs as season-defining. And they have to win them both — tonight in the Champions League second leg and on Saturday in the league — if a hugely promising campaign is not destined to fall flat.

Two wins and the prospect of an historic Quadruple would be solidified by Saturday afternoon. Equally, City's season might go up in smoke with draws or defeats. The FA Cup and League Cup double would be scant consolation.

'If we don't win these games we'll be out of two competitions,' said Guardiola. 'They are absolute finals for us. I've had that feeling from weeks ago. But I've said many

POCH TREATING THIS AS FREE HIT, BUT NEXT SEASON GETS SERIOUS

MAURICIO POCHETTINO was enjoying himself so much that when Tottenham's press officer attempted to halt last night's news conference, the manager stopped him. 'No, I am comfortable. It's not too many times you play the quarter-finals — let me enjoy it, please,' he said with a smile. Tottenham are treating this Champions League tilt as a free hit, but Pochettino revealed that their attitude will change dramatically next season.

By **JACK GAUGHAN**

He claimed that from August, when Spurs begin the first full campaign in their new £1billion stadium, they should expect to win trophies and challenge for the biggest honours. 'A chapter is going to be closed and we are going to start another chapter and we need to translate to our fans what we need to do,' Pochettino said. 'With our new stadium, we need to fight for the

Champions League and the Premier League because we have the tools to be there. 'It is going to be tough to find a way to be on the same level (as Real Madrid and Barcelona). There is a lot of work to be on the level we want. If your expectation is to win the league, maybe you need to sign players or have a different budget. 'We are here now because we love to compete and we love to win. If you compare us with another

team, we are in a different financial position or had a different strategy over the last four or five years. 'We are achieving a lot, that if you go back, no one would believe. For me, a title with Tottenham is a massive dream.' Spurs hold a one-goal lead from last week's absorbing first leg. They must preserve that without the injured Harry Kane, Harry Winks or Eric Dier. Dele Alli's hand injury will be assessed. Hugo Lloris, wary of the

attacking threat of a wounded City, urged his team to 'use their brains' as they hunt away goals. 'We have to try to enjoy it,' Lloris said. 'We're all excited and ready to fight to make history. It's important to leave the pitch without regret. 'Our project is clear. Every season we improve. Whatever happens, we can be proud of everything.' Pressure had not touched Spurs in this competition until Pochettino's ex-Paris Saint-Germain team-mate

Ronaldinho claimed yesterday they have the ability to land the trophy. 'Wow,' Pochettino said. 'He knows a lot about football and I respect him. Why not? In football, anything can happen. Like in life, you must believe. 'It is good that people like Ronaldinho think we have the quality to win. That increases our belief. 'I learned a lot from him — laughing, smiling, dancing. Football is a sport. If you want to play well, you have to smile.'

MARTIN KEOWN



I THINK Pep Guardiola factored in that Manchester City can score more goals at home than Tottenham could at their new stadium. Mauricio Pochettino's side got one in the first leg but I'm not sure that will be enough to see them through to the semi-finals. For City tonight, it will be attack, attack, attack. As much as I respect Spurs, it is bound to be too much for them to handle.

KEOWN'S PREDICTION - 2-0 TO CITY

CHRIS SUTTON



TOTTENHAM have pace throughout their team and we know the way Pep Guardiola's Manchester City like to play. City take risks, and that leaves them exposed to counter-attacks. That's why I think Tottenham will get a goal tonight — but I also think City will score a few as well. Guardiola's players will feel like they have a point to prove. They will want to show how serious they are about the Quadruple.

SUTTON'S PREDICTION - 3-1 TO CITY

WATCHING BRIEF... MAN CITY (0) v TOTTENHAM (1)

(probable teams)

Kick-off: 8pm, Etihad Stadium.
TV & Radio: **LIVE** on BT Sport 2 and BBC Radio 5 Live from 7pm.

Referee: Cuneyt Cakir (Turkey).

■ **Spurs have lost only one of their last eight away games in the CL.**



times that the Premier League is the most important.'

The message coming from his players is that the Quadruple is firmly in their thoughts. John Stones talked up the squad's chances, saying: 'We're still on for the Quadruple and that's the dream we want to achieve. We're fighting for it every day. We've got to trust it brings the best out of us.'

'We've got to enjoy the pressure of fighting for the titles and these

big games. You get the best out of yourselves when you are under that scrutiny and you find who you are as a player and the players around you. It is a privileged position to be in and we have got to take every opportunity.'

For that to come to fruition, Guardiola will need to win his first Champions League since 2011. The Catalan's record in the competition is derided by his detractors, particularly a failure to reach

a final during his three years in charge of Bayern Munich.

There have been big moments when Guardiola has been found wanting in this competition, but also big moments where his genius has been plain. He has won it twice, after all, in 2009 and 2011. One more would put him on a par with Bob Paisley, Carlo Ancelotti and Zinedine Zidane.

Some around City believe that starting with two holding midfielders

and resting Kevin De Bruyne for last week's 1-0 defeat at Spurs might also prove to be a masterstroke come the full-time whistle tonight. De Bruyne certainly looked fresh and carried City during the latter stages of Sunday's victory at Crystal Palace.

'When my teams don't win the Champions League, they "fail" all the time,' Guardiola said, eyebrows raised. 'I have to win. The chairman asked me to win three times in a row. We try to do our best and tomorrow we will see.'

'I know people say I came here to win the Champions League. I didn't come here to win the Champions League, honestly. Of course I want it. I know at Bayern Munich, a big club, after three seasons winning absolutely everything (domestically), then the Champions League was a big failure.'

'What can I say? I accept that. I have to live with that but it's not a big, big problem, it pushes me to be better. A lot of big, big clubs are not in the later stages.'

The semi-finals of this competition are still largely uncharted territory for City. Their only appearance was in 2016, months before Guardiola arrived, and that is partly why the manager objects so strongly to questions about his record.

He has described City as 'teenagers' in Europe given their lack of experience and knows the club's supporters are not completely engaged because of long-running disputes with UEFA. Despite all that, there is a realisation that this talented squad must now go further. Holding their nerve in big cup matches has not always been City's strongest suit.

'Vinnie (Kompany) made a good point before Crystal Palace that these sort of games can bring out the best in us,' said Stones. 'We have to trust ourselves and our team-mates that it will bring the best out of us and we perform. We have to believe.'

JACK GAUGHAN



Sitting protest: Ronaldo appeals in vain to the referee

REUTERS

IAN LADYMAN

Football Editor

at the Nou Camp

IF YOU wanted to be cruel, there are a selection of images available that illustrate just how miserable an evening this was for Manchester United.

Lionel Messi sitting by the corner flag, smiling, after running rings around three United players and being the victim of a playground shove from the exasperated Scott McTominay.

David de Gea trying to hold a soft Messi shot like a child trying to hang on to a pet rabbit.

The away end emptying with 10 minutes to go. And Paul Pogba falling over.

Each would portray the discomfort, the embarrassment and ultimately the pointlessness of this evening from a United point of view. If we needed to know exactly how far United have fallen since the years when nothing scared them, then here was a measure of it.

Maybe, then, it is better to focus on Messi's opening goal. As much as anything that followed, it was a goal that shaped and settled this tie.

Poor by his standards in the first leg at Old Trafford last week, Messi seemed intent on resurrecting the true image of himself here. The 31-year-old was recognisable once again and never more so than in the timing of his first real intervention.

Barcelona, strange as it sounds now, had looked vulnerable early in the game. United had found space to explore. They had hit the bar and fluffed another good chance.

So, Messi's goal was important and it felt as much at the time. It did not really look on, either.

The way Messi had shaken off the attentions of Ashley Young (twice), then Phil Jones, as he moved right to left across the top of the penalty area was recognisable, but as he prepared to release his shot, he looked to have about half a foot to aim at.

De Gea had got his angles right and must have fancied his chances. Top corner would have given Messi a puncher's chance, but instead he went low, drawing a stunning left-foot shot away from De Gea and back behind his right hand into the goal.

It was one for the Messi show-reel, a classic. We have all seen it before but that does not lessen the quality or the impact of the moment. For United, it must have felt like a door being slammed in their face, the scorer scampering away to take the applause with the key tucked in his sock.

Strictly speaking, the goal did not change United's task. Ole Gunnar Solskjær's team needed two goals to win before the game started and — on account of the away-goals rule — that remained the case. But the reality is that the goal changed everything.

It changed the mood in the stadium, the mood among the two sets of players and it changed the momentum of the game. Before, United had felt

De Ligt comes of age as Ajax dump Ronaldo

HOW fitting that it was graduation day here in Turin. For this was another coming-of-age performance from a simply brilliant young Ajax side, advancing to the semi-finals after Cristiano Ronaldo had threatened to lecture them in the competition that is his specialist subject. But come nightfall Ronaldo's crown had slipped, the only reigning champion left in this season's renewal dethroned by the last-16 conquerors of his former club — and holders — Real Madrid. When the Juventus star scored his 126th Champions League goal in the first half it seemed unimaginable that he would not remain on course for his fourth straight title. Ajax, though, were never going to surrender to convention, just as they refused to during last month's stunning 4-1 victory in the Bernabeu. And thanks to goals from the outstanding Donny van de Beek, 21, and captain Matthijs de Ligt, still just 19, it is they who will face the winners of Manchester City and Spurs in the last four. The last time the Dutch club qualified for the semis was in 1997, pre-dating the birth of their scorers. They are the youngest team in the last eight — an average age of 24 years and eight months. The teenage hero of the night De Ligt explained: 'It's bizarre, not normal. I have no words for it. We have defeated Real and Juventus, two intended title candidates. We are very proud,

JUVENTUS

1

AJAX

2

Ajax win 3-2 on aggregate

CRAIG HOPE

at the Allianz Stadium

the supporters are proud, the city is proud.'

It is sad that this generation will be disbanded as quickly as they have emerged, 21-year-old midfielder Frenkie de Jong already set for Barcelona with De Ligt and Van de Beek also likely to depart this summer.

So let us enjoy them while this run lasts. It had, though, appeared to be nearing expiry when Ronaldo headed a 28th-minute opener.

Ajax boss Erik ten Hag said on the eve of the game that he would not worry about man-marking the Portugal forward. You assumed such a casual tactic would not extend to set-pieces. But apparently so, at least judging by the manner in which the unmarked Ronaldo strode gleefully on to Miralem Pjanic's corner to head home.

Van de Beek levelled six minutes later when Hakim Ziyech's scuffed shot was transformed into a cunning through-ball and the midfielder duly finished from eight yards.

It was deserved. Not for what had gone before, but for what followed. Juventus were rattled and Ajax went after a winner, finding it when the awesome De Ligt rose to head in Lasse Schöne's corner on 67 minutes.

20

MANCHESTER UNITED have lost four away games in a row for the first time in nearly 20 years. Not since October 1999 have they lost four consecutive away matches.

WHAT A FOR PIT

Luck runs out for



they were making some progress. Barcelona were skittish. But this served as a reminder of Barca's capability. Like a boxer landing a lone punch on a challenger's jaw, it set United back on their heels and they simply never recovered their balance or poise.

What we saw here told us plenty about United and not much of it was good. The last time they had played at the Nou Camp was on the way to winning the competition

Helpless: Solskjær makes a point on the touchline

REUTERS



Tangle:
Busquets
(left) and
Pogba fight
for the ball
GETTY IMAGES

MIGHTY FALL IFUL UNITED

Solskjaer's side to highlight size of task ahead

in 2008. They drew that night and Cristiano Ronaldo missed a penalty.

The team included Rio Ferdinand, Patrice Evra, Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney and Carlos Tevez.

Ryan Giggs was on the bench and Nemanja Vidic was ill. That side used to travel in hope.

The current version have merely wandered around Europe this season chasing miracles. Remarkably, they achieved two, winning at Juventus and Paris Saint-Germain. But those were nights when fortune was in their corner.

More telling is the fact that United scored just once at home in the Champions League in this campaign — Marouane Fellaini's last-minute

strike against Young Boys — and prior to Alexis Sanchez's diving header at the death here, they had mustered two shots on target in 180 minutes of football against a Barca team who do not always look as though they know how to defend.

So, yes, the truths of the modern United were laid bare here, but that should not detract from the enduring ability of one man to twist, bend and mould a football match.

Messi's second goal was a disaster for De Gea, a goalkeeper no longer a stranger to mistakes. But would it have come without the first? Maybe not. After all, it came on the back of the shift in pattern and rhythm of play that was instigated wholly by

the Barcelona captain's opening masterpiece.

Philippe Coutinho's second-half goal was equally special, but that served as decoration, and there lies the crucial difference. Coutinho and Luis Suarez carry their own threat, but if Barcelona are to win the Champions League for the first time in four years, Messi must be at the heart of it.

If it is to be Liverpool for them in the semi-finals this year, the Merseyside club should be optimistic.

There are flaws in this Barcelona team. One thing about them remains exactly the same, however, and it comes wearing the No 10.

twitter @Ian_Ladyman_DM

Player Ratings



CHRIS WHEELER at the Nou Camp

BARCELONA 77.0 (4-3-3) TEAM AVERAGE 7.0
MAN UTD 57.5 (4-3-3) TEAM AVERAGE 5.2

M-A TER STEGEN 6.5
 HARDLY troubled after early scares but made a fantastic reflex save from Sanchez in 90th minute.

SERGI ROBERTO 6
 ONLY change from first leg, had a great chance right on half-time but De Gea somehow kept it out.

GERARD PIQUE 7
 SHAKY start as United created early openings, but settled well against his old club after that.

CLEMENT LENGLET 6.5
 MADE sure United's greater height and strength didn't hurt Barca over the two legs.

JORDI ALBA 7
 GOT forward brilliantly to cause United problems down their right and comfortable in defence.

IVAN RAKITIC 7
 HAD a penalty award overturned and nearly scored with a header. Very lively display.

SERGIO BUSQUETS 7
 MR Dependable of this Barca team. Now gone 45 Champions League home games without defeat.

ARTHUR 7
 GOT away with an early slip and kept things ticking over in midfield with a tidy performance.

LIONEL MESSI ★ 9
 SUBDUED in the first leg, sublime here. What a first goal. What a show. What a wonderful player.

LUIS SUAREZ ■ 7
 CUT a frustrated figure at times but still did more than enough to keep United busy.

PHILIPPE COUTINHO 7
 EXPLODED into life with kind of stunning strike we used to see from him in the Premier League.

SUBSTITUTES
Semedo 6 (for Roberto 71min), **Vidal 6** (for Arthur 75), **Dembele** (for Coutinho 81). **Not used:** Cillessen, Umtiti, Alena, Malcom.

ERNESTO VALVERDE 8
 HAS guided Barca to first semi-final since 2015, and with something to spare.

REFEREE **FELIX BRYCH** (GER) 7
 WITH VAR's help, reversed a penalty for Fred's challenge on Rakitic.

DAVID DE GEA 4.5
 HORRIBLE mistake for the second, allowing Messi's shot to creep under him. Not at his best this season.

VICTOR LINDELOF 5.5
 PLAYED wide due to Shaw suspension but struggled and United needed his composure in the middle.

CHRIS SMALLING 5
 COULDN'T get close to Messi and Coutinho for the first and third goals. A torrid night for him.

PHIL JONES 5
 PLAYED with bandaged head but being turned inside out by Messi won't have helped dizzy spells.

ASHLEY YOUNG 5
 LOST possession to Messi for first goal when he had chances to clear. Big mistake at a crucial time.

SCOTT MCTOMINAY 6
 EXCELLENT in first leg but a little overwhelmed here. Miscontrolled in front of goal early on.

FRED 4.5
 GOT penalty reprieve but nutmegged by Messi for first goal and knocked off the ball for second.

PAUL POGBA 5.5
 FAILED on big stage again. His frustration showed as he kicked out at Arthur in first half.

JESSE LINGARD 5.5
 STRUGGLED to get in game and use his pace as Barca took control and United's wheels came off.

MARCUS RASHFORD 6.5
 UNITED'S liveliest player again but it could have been so different if he hadn't hit bar so early on.

ANTHONY MARTIAL 4.5
 LARGELY anonymous Frenchman was first off. Another gifted player who can do so much more.

SUBSTITUTES
Dalot 6 (for Martial 65), **Lukaku 6** (for Rashford 73), **Sanchez** (for Lingard 80). **Not used:** Romero, Matic, Pereira, Mata.

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER 6
 TALK of fairytale return to Nou Camp evaporated in opening 20 minutes.

ATTENDANCE
96,708

BLOWN AWAY BY

Haphazard United cannot handle the brilliance of Barca

IF there were any illusions, Manchester United now know how far they must travel under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer: the gulf that exists between them and the elite of the European game.

A panicked opening two minutes aside, this was as comfortable as the scoreline suggests, the game never in doubt after 20 minutes when a horrible mistake by David de Gea gifted Lionel Messi his second goal of the night. By the end, the weakness in this United group had been heartlessly exposed — not just those who might be felt lightweight in this company, but those who believe they belong.

Errors from Ashley Young and Fred led to goals, but if Real Madrid were watching the performance of Paul Pogba they will not have seen a player who looks capable of wresting domestic superiority from Barcelona. He was over-run, without influence and on one occasion desperately self-indulgent. Yet he is far from the only problem.

When Alexis Sanchez came on to a warm reception with 11 minutes to go, it was a reminder. The player United broke the bank to recruit is in essence a Barcelona cast-off. Those who are good enough to make it at the Nou Camp will not be leaving for Old Trafford any time soon. Barcelona is the home of the best in a way Manchester United has not been for some time now.

And that showed.

Messi had not scored at the quarter-final stage of this competition since April 2013, but he made up for it here. As for Philippe Coutinho, any thoughts that he might regret his move from Liverpool were overwhelmingly countered. His goal gave the scoreline the emphasis it deserved.

Messi played a long crossfield ball from deep in his own half to Jordi Alba, who found Coutinho. He cut towards the centre once more and struck a delightful curving shot, high and over the reach of De Gea. If Barcelona were disappointing at Old Trafford, this

MARTIN SAMUEL

Chief Sports Writer

at the Nou Camp

BARCELONA

Messi 16, 20
Coutinho 61

MAN UTD



3

0

(Barcelona win 4-0 on aggregate)

win and the 4-0 aggregate outcome are a reminder of the standards they continue to set. Standards that United can only dream of reaching right now.

They have a cult figure as manager, a grand history and a growing mythology that links the two, but what they miss is the quality setting Barcelona apart.

Ole may be at the wheel, but he's not steering a high-performance vehicle. The idea this could be United's year, as it was for Chelsea and their unlikely steward, Roberto Di Matteo, in 2012, was quickly dispelled.

Bottom line: they couldn't live with Barcelona after a sprightly first two minutes. In that period United took their hosts by surprise, hit the bar and fumbled a second good opportunity. Had either of those chances gone in, who knows?

Yet there is one thing we know about visiting Barcelona: take your chances because they are going to take theirs. So when Marcus Rashford broke through after 35 seconds and instead of a firm low finish, chipped and clipped the bar of Marc-Andre ter Stegen, there were immediate thoughts it could be a pivotal moment.

So too the pass that found Scott McTominay in a ridiculous amount of space immediately after. The ball got trapped under his feet and



Giving the game away: Jones looks dumbfounded and De Gea buries his head after allowing Messi

the danger passed; and with it the hopes of Manchester United.

When Barcelona first scored United could content themselves with the knowledge the mission hadn't changed: they still needed to score twice to progress.

The second, however, was a killer. Now United needed three against a team who had not surrendered a first leg lead at home in European competition since 1984. And there was nothing beyond that first two minutes that suggested United had surprise in them.

It wasn't just the errors that led to the goals that highlighted the difference. In the ninth minute, United had the glimmer of a break on. The ball fell to Pogba in the vicinity of the centre circle, and he shot at goal. Would a Barcelona player have tried such a stunning piece of self-indulgence?

The ball flew high and harmless, over the bar. It wasn't the action of

a player thinking of his team — and Barcelona are, first and foremost, a team. A very, very good team. With one quite extraordinary individual, obviously. Yet Messi never plays as if the event is about him, even if his genius often makes it so. He does not go it alone if a team-mate is better placed, he doesn't always occupy position A. And yet, operating as a deep lying forward, he is averaging better than a goal a game this season. Incredible.

First, before the Messi show, United had to survive a penalty call. Fred got a foot in, and in doing so sent Ivan Rakitic rolling, rolling, rolling, like a ball on a downward slope at Augusta National but with less assistance from gravity. By the time the Croat came to rest, referee Felix Brych was pointing to the spot.

At which point VAR did its thing. A close-up showed Fred won the

ball. No penalty. Justice done. Not that it mattered — within 10 minutes United were 2-0 down.

The first goal started with Young getting in a tangle that served up the ball to Messi. The pair had shaken hands as captains before the game and one can only hope Young made the most of that gentle moment. His other engagements with the player were more fraught, to say the least.

Messi beat Fred and glided past Phil Jones, who, with his white plaster headband, appeared to come pre-injured, probably to save time. He shaped to shoot and Chris Smalling put his arms behind his back to guard against handball. He needn't have bothered; Messi doesn't hit it close enough to obstacles for this to be a problem. He curled it sweetly out of De Gea's reach.

There was nothing the finest goalkeeper in the English game

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MAGICAL MESSI

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DAVID DE HOWLER!**



to celebrate his second goal REX

could do. Sadly, the same could not be said of his second goal.

The blame lies with De Gea, but for United, problems began when Fred attempted a Cruyff turn perilously close to his own penalty area. Frankly, Cruyff wouldn't have attempted a Cruyff turn in that position — and he was better at them than Fred.

So the ball was lost to Messi, who again figuratively left Jones in a tapas bar downtown and hit the ball low. It should have been easily stopped but De Gea made arguably his biggest error since his first season in English football.

His weakness then was crosses and the physicality of the English game, but no such excuses here. This was a simple shot and the ball squirmed horribly underneath his body. He reappeared after half-time to find Barcelona's fans bowing down in mock admiration. It was a sobering night all round.



1 De Gea seems to have Messi's shot covered

BT SPORT



2 ... but the ball slithers through his grasp

BT SPORT



3 ... and rolls gently into the United net

BT SPORT

Argentine lauds 'spectacular' play of Catalan giants

From Back Page

of the last decade. Now tonight Messi shows his quality.

'That is the Barcelona team here, and that's the level we have to aspire to. We can get there but we have loads of work to do.'

'If we want to get back to United's true traditions and level, we know we have to challenge the Barcelonas. I have to say they were a couple of levels above tonight and at Old Trafford.'

'We did well to get here but you could see the difference between the two teams. The quality of their finishing was absolutely outstanding. We know there's work to be done. I've said all along this isn't going to change overnight. The next few years are going to be massive to get to the level of Barcelona and other teams.'

'We're on with the job and have spoken to the players. We need to get the best out of each other and create an environment of top-class attitude. We've got good players to work with but, as I said, we've got a rebuilding job. It starts with the coaches and players, and with one or two additions.'

Trailing 1-0 from the first leg at Old Trafford, United started well and hit the bar through Marcus Rashford (below) in the opening 30 seconds. But they were floored by two goals in quick succession from Messi that effectively ended the tie as a contest. The second came from an awful blunder by De Gea who allowed Messi's tame shot to somehow slip under his body.

'That's unfortunate with goalkeepers,' added Solskjaer. 'When you make an error it can get highlighted and that will be remembered. He made some fantastic saves and his contribution to the team is good, but sometimes that happens in

SEMI-FINAL DATES

APR 30/MAY 1

Tottenham/Man City
v Ajax

MAY 7/MAY 8

Ajax v
Tottenham/Man City

APR 30/MAY 1

Barcelona v
Liverpool/Porto

MAY 7/MAY 8

Liverpool/Porto
v Barcelona

football. You know the level. You cannot slip up and make mistakes and not take the chances you get yourself. We didn't capitalise on our great chance, then they have two shots on target and two goals.

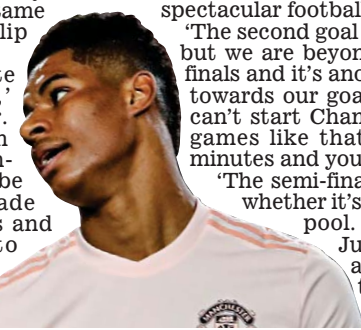
'If you want the result you need the performance and you have to have margins. We started well but then Messi hits that in the bottom corner. I have to say he is top quality and he was the difference. When they went 2-0 up it was game over. 'Whenever he gets the ball around the box he will be decisive. He was the winner for them.'

Messi told Spanish TV: 'We were spectacular. We were a bit cold and nervous at the start but after that we took control and played some spectacular football.'

'The second goal was a bit lucky but we are beyond the quarter-finals and it's another little step towards our goal. We know we can't start Champions League games like that. Just 10 bad minutes and you can pay.'

'The semi-final will be tough whether it's Porto or Liverpool. Ajax's win (at Juventus) says it all about how tough this competition is.'

◀ **MIGHTY FALL FOR PITIFUL UNITED - FOOTBALL EDITOR IAN LADYMAN, PAGES 80-81**



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DIFFERENT CLASS!

United miles off Messi and Co, admits Ole

CHRIS WHEELER at the Nou Camp

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER admitted that Lionel Messi and Barcelona are in a different class from Manchester United after their Champions League dream died.

Messi scored twice in the space of four minutes last night as United lost 3-0 to exit at the quarter-final stage 4-0 on aggregate.

On a night when Cristiano Ronaldo and Juventus went out to Ajax in Turin, Solskjaer acknowledged that United's emphatic defeat highlighted the task facing him to make the club a major force in Europe again.

'Messi's different class,' said Solskjaer. 'He and Ronaldo have been the best players

TURN TO PAGE 83, COL 2

MAN CITY v TOTTENHAM
MATCH PREVIEW - PAGES 78-79



BARCELONA 3 0 MAN UTD
BARCELONA WIN 4-0 ON AGGREGATE

Screamers: Scorers Messi and Coutinho enjoy their night

GETTY IMAGES

BUTT ARRESTED OVER 'ASSAULT' ON WOMAN

MANCHESTER UNITED head of academy Nicky Butt has been arrested on suspicion of assault.

The 44-year-old was held by police at 2pm yesterday following reports that a woman had been assaulted, hours before United took on Barcelona in their

EXCLUSIVE
By **MIKE KEEGAN** and **MATT LAWTON**

Champions League quarter-final second leg. Butt remained in custody into the evening and was set to be interviewed by

officers while United were in action in the Nou Camp. The woman was reported to have suffered a small cut to her hand and did not require hospital treatment. United declined to comment. However, the news capped a terrible day for the famed Class of '92

after Paul Scholes was charged by the FA with breaking their betting rules. Butt, who made 387 appearances for United between 1992 and 2004, was appointed head of academy in 2016 and has been

TURN TO PAGE 77, COL 5

QUICK CROSSWORD

8,203

ACROSS

- 1 Light sleep (6)
4 Mix and combine (5)
7 Do as others do (6,4)
8 Style and vigour (4)
9 Long grass on a golf course (5)
11 Austere (7)
13 Nil (7)
15 Vapour from hot water (5)
17 Dauntless or daring (4)

DOWN

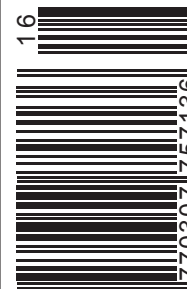
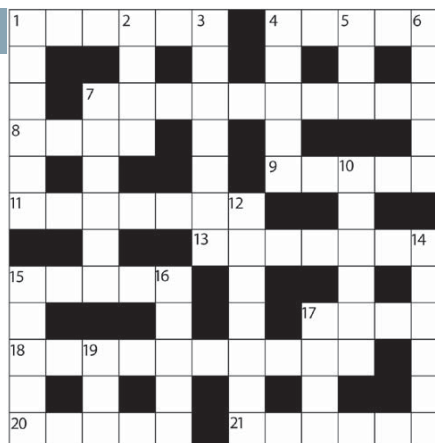
- 1 Moral or legal requirement (10)
20 Lift up (5)
21 Mattress filled with straw (6)
1 Drinking toast (6)
2 Twelve o'clock midday (4)
3 Luxurious railway coach (7)
4 Arbour (5)
5 Australian bird (3)

ACROSS

- 6 Get rid of (5)
7 Outward appearance (6)
10 Agreement or accord (6)
12 Without interruption (3-4)
14 Small ingenious device (6)
15 Deadly sin (5)
16 Power or force (5)
17 Basin (4)
19 Garland of flowers (3)

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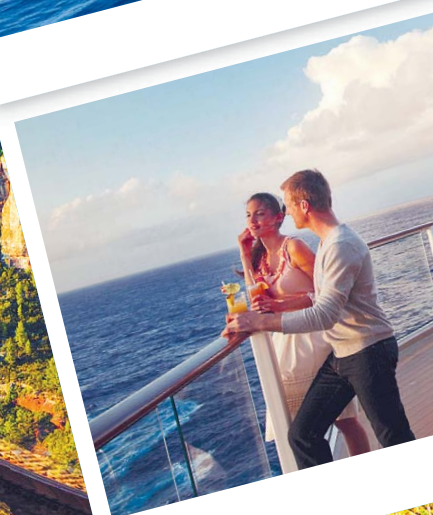
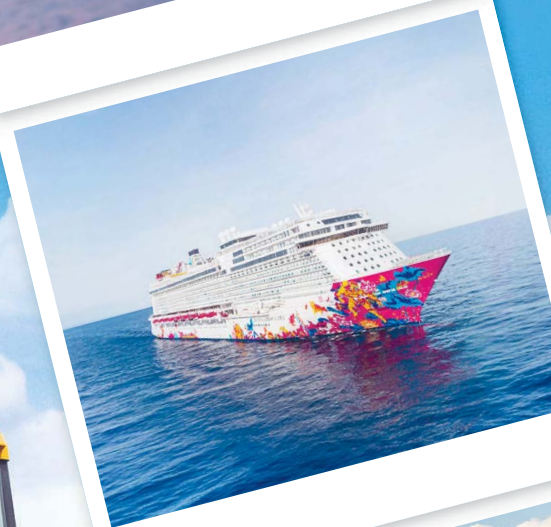
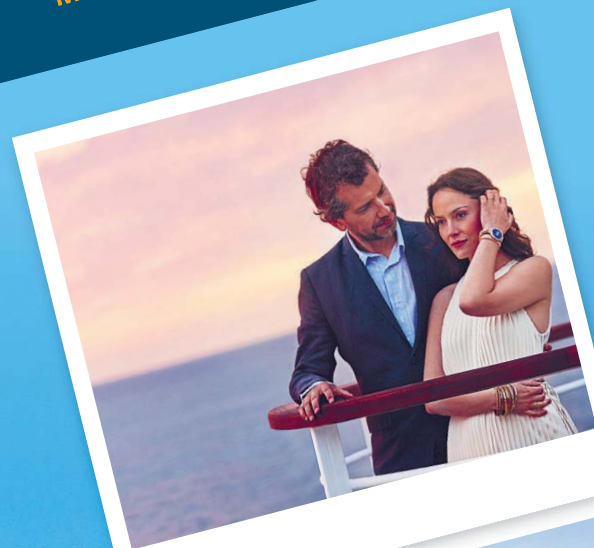
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You'll discover Penang's stunning shores, Phuket's dreamy beaches and Malacca's colonial landmarks before

returning to Singapore to experience all the thrills of the Singapore Grand Prix™. With three-day Bay Grandstand tickets, you'll watch the drivers speed around the streets of the Marina Bay area against the spectacular backdrop of the city's glittering skyline. Plus, if you book a Balcony or above, you'll also enjoy an exclusive Q&A event with Martin Brundle at Gardens by the Bay.

DISCOVER:
Singapore, Penang, Phuket, Malacca



*Access to performers may change depending on ticket type. ** Excluding transfers to and from the Singapore Grand Prix™.



GENTING DREAM

Genting Dream combines all the warmth of Asian hospitality with the finest experiences from around the world. With over 35 restaurants and bars, luxurious pools this ship promises a fun-filled cruise holiday.

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

4 night hotel stay at the Grand Mercure Roxy in Singapore

5 night full-board cruise on board Genting Dream

FREE Outside to Balcony Upgrade

^Book a Balcony or above and receive a FREE exclusive event with Martin Brundle

3 day bay Grandstand ticket to the Singapore Grand Prix™

Live music from stadium rockers Muse, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Fatboy Slim and more*



ALL EMIRATES FLIGHTS
& TRANSFERS INCLUDED**

EXCLUSIVE EVENT
WITH MARTIN
BRUNDLE^

Panama Canal Adventure: From Spain To The Americas

Includes a 1 Night Hotel Stay in Barcelona

INTERIOR <i>fr</i> £2,199 <i>pp</i>	OCEANVIEW <i>fr</i> £2,399 <i>pp</i>	BALCONY <i>fr</i> £2,999 <i>pp</i>
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30 NIGHTS | DEPARTING: 3 NOVEMBER 2019 | CRUISE CODE: REP7252

Embark on a transatlantic adventure on board Emerald Princess that will take you from Spanish ports to the glamour of Los Angeles.

After a one night hotel stay in Barcelona, you'll set sail for historic Cartagena, Malaga and Morocco's Casablanca. Next you'll cruise to the

volcanic islands of Tenerife and the Azores as you cross the Atlantic and head to Fort Lauderdale, also known as the Venice of America. After passing through the impressive Panama Canal you'll visit a number of destinations in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico that offer white-sand beaches, lush rainforests and sparkling seas before arriving in Los Angeles.



EMERALD PRINCESS

One of the real jewels of this world-leading cruise line's fleet, the Emerald Princess offers its passengers a wonderfully wide range of choices of accommodation, itineraries, entertainment and dining options.

DISCOVER:
Barcelona, Cartagena, Malaga, Casablanca, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Ponta Delgada, Fort Lauderdale, Panama Canal, Fuerte Amador, Puntarenas, San Juan del Sur, Huatulco, Puerto Vallarta, Los Angeles



YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

1 night hotel stay in Barcelona

29 night full-board cruise on board Emerald Princess

- Princess offers unparalleled inclusive dining options throughout the ship
- On board activities will keep you engaged every moment of your cruise holiday
- Original musicals, dazzling magic shows, feature films, top comedians and nightclubs



ALL FLIGHTS INCLUDED

AMAZING VALUE
30 NIGHTS FROM
£2,199^{PP}

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No-Fly Venice Simplon-Orient-Express & Mediterranean Explorer

INCLUDES A CRUISE ON A BRAND NEW PRINCESS SHIP
& HOTEL STAYS IN LAKE GARDA AND FLORENCE



DURATION: **15 NIGHTS**
DEPARTING: **1 JULY 2020**

INTERIOR *fr*
£3,999 *pp*

OCEANVIEW *fr*
£4,999 *pp*

BALCONY *fr*
£4,999 *pp*

SUITE *fr*
£5,999 *pp*



Discover the highlights of Italy, the wonders of the Mediterranean and enjoy an unforgettable journey back to London on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.

DISCOVER YOUR ITINERARY

• **Day 1 Southampton**
(Embark Enchanted Princess)

Embark the brand new Enchanted Princess on one of her very first voyages.



- **Day 2 Le Havre (France)**
- **Days 3 - 4 At Sea**
- **Day 5 Lisbon**
- **Day 6 Gibraltar**
- **Day 7 At Sea**
- **Day 8 Barcelona**

Barcelona is a vibrant and exciting city with beautiful beaches, restaurants, bars and cafés, along with numerous cultural delights.

- **Day 9 Toulon**
- **Day 10 Livorno (Florence/Pisa)**
Livorno serves as the gateway to the Tuscan cities of Florence and Pisa with its iconic Leaning Tower. Don't just admire it from the ground, climb to the top and enjoy fantastic views.



- **Day 11 Civitavecchia (Rome)**
(Disembark ship and transfer to Florence hotel)



Florence is an achingly romantic city of rivers, bridges and Renaissance art and architecture. One of the city's most iconic sights is the Duomo, a cathedral with a striking terracotta-tiled dome.

- **Days 12 - 14 Lake Garda (Hotel stay)**
With majestic mountains around its edges and colourful villages wedged among sprawling vineyards, Lake Garda is a compelling destination that offers so much to discover.



During your time here you could visit Sirmione and delve into its thermal springs, extraordinary castle and Roman ruins; or Riva del Garda with its medieval fortifications and cobblestone streets.

- **Days 15 - 16 Verona to London**
(Venice Simplon-Orient-Express)

Harking back to a more elegant age, you'll journey through the countryside in original 1920s and 1930s carriages and experience gracious service as you dine on a menu of delectable cuisine. Enjoy views of the jagged Dolomites and the snow-peaked Swiss Alps on your way home to London.



YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

CRUISE

- 10 night full-board cruise on board the brand new Enchanted Princess
- FREE Oceanview to Balcony upgrade

HOTEL STAYS

- 1 night in Florence
- 3 nights in Lake Garda

LUXURY RAIL JOURNEY

- 2 day full-board Venice Simplon-Orient-Express journey from Verona to London
 - Dedicated steward service
 - Gourmet breakfast, lunch, brunch and dinner
 - Coffee & petits four
 - Enjoy views of the jagged Dolomites and the Austrian valleys, dotted with chalets, on your way to London



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TO BALCONY
UPGRADE**

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Far East in Bloom & Mount Fuji Discovery

INCLUDES A TOKYO HOTEL STAY AND JAPAN CRUISE



JOHN LEWIS
VOUCHER
WITH EVERY BOOKING*

£100

DURATION: **12 NIGHTS**
DEPARTING: **MARCH & APRIL 2020**

INTERIOR *fr**
£2,699_{pp}

OCEANVIEW *fr*
£2,999_{pp}

BALCONY *fr*
£3,599_{pp}

SUITE *fr*
£4,199_{pp}



Discover the vibrant destinations of the Far East, awash with the beautiful cherry blossom of spring on board Diamond Princess, before exploring the serenity of Mount Fuji.

DISCOVER YOUR ITINERARY*

• Day 1 Tokyo (Hotel stay)

You'll be visiting at the time when Japan turns a beautiful shade of pink as the iconic cherry blossom blooms. Not only is the cherry blossom a truly beautiful sight to behold, it is deeply symbolic of Japan's cultural and philosophical beliefs.



• Day 2 Yokohama (Embark Diamond Princess)

Diamond Princess is a treasure trove of delights waiting to be discovered. Dine on freshly prepared sashimi in Kai Sushi, watch street performers in the dazzling Atrium, or watch a lavish production show in the state-of-the-art theatre.



• Day 3 At Sea

• Day 4 Miyazaki

Located on the island of Kyushu in Japan, Miyazaki city offers scenic views of both the ocean and the towering mountains surrounding it.

• Day 5 Hakata



• Day 6 Busan

Busan has something for all tastes whether you want to enjoy its beaches, hot springs or fantastic fresh seafood.



• Day 7 Sasebo

• Day 8 Kagoshima

• Day 9 Beppu

• Day 10 At Sea

• Day 11 Yokohama (Disembark ship and transfer to Tokyo hotel)

• Days 11 - 12 Tokyo (Hotel stay & tour)



A fully escorted tour will take you to the stunning Mount Fuji, a sacred site looped with walking trails and dotted with shrines. You'll also ride the Hakone Ropeway Cable Car, with a chance to explore the active hot springs. At Lake Ashi you'll take a boat across the still, peaceful water, enjoying the natural beauty of the Crater Lake before the high-speed Bullet train whisks you back to Tokyo.



YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

CRUISE

- 9 night full-board cruise on board Diamond Princess

HOTEL STAYS

- 3 nights at the Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba

FULLY ESCORTED TOURS

- Mount Fuji including the Hakone Ropeway Cable Car
- Boat trip across Lake Ashi
- High-speed Bullet Train to Tokyo



ALL FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS INCLUDED



MOUNT FUJI & CHERRY BLOSSOM EXPERIENCE

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ABTA
ABTA No. Y6300

Indian Ocean & Golden Triangle Discovery

INCLUDES A 7 DAY FULLY ESCORTED GOLDEN TRIANGLE TOUR

FLASH SALE
SAVE UP TO
£800 PER COUPLE*

**JOHN LEWIS
VOUCHER**
WITH EVERY BOOKING*

£100

DURATION: **22 NIGHTS**
DEPARTING: **NOVEMBER 2019 - MARCH 2020**

INTERIOR *fr**
£2,199_{pp}

OCEAN VIEW *fr*
£2,799_{pp}

BALCONY *fr*
£3,499_{pp}

CONCIERGE CLASS *fr*
£3,799_{pp}

Celebrity **X** Cruises®
SAIL BEYOND

Immerse yourself in the vibrant colours, sights and sounds of enthralling India on a seven day tour before sailing through ports in India and Asia.

DISCOVER YOUR ITINERARY*

• Days 1 - 2 Delhi (Hotel stay & tour)

Your full day of sightseeing includes a tour of the 300-year-old walled city of Old Delhi. You'll also see the imposing India Gate on a tour of New Delhi and visit Humayun's Tomb and Qutab Minar.



• Day 3 Agra (Hotel stay & tour)

In Agra, you'll visit the world famous Taj Mahal, an architectural masterpiece in white marble with beautiful inlay work.

• Days 4 - 5 Jaipur (Hotel stay & tour)

During your time in Jaipur you'll see the intriguing red sandstone Hawa

Mahal (Palace of Winds), the Amber Fort and the awe-inspiring Jantar Mantar Observatory.



• Day 6 Delhi (Hotel stay)

• Day 7 FLY > Dubai (Hotel stay)

• Days 8 - 9 Dubai (Embark Celebrity Constellation, overnight in port)

A sparkling strip of skyscrapers – including the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa – surrounded by the azure waters of the Arabian Sea and the rolling dunes of the desert.



• Day 10 Muscat

• Days 11 - 12 At Sea

• Days 13 - 14 Mumbai (Overnight in port)

• Day 15 Goa

Laidback, sunny and spicy; Goa is just as well suited to those who want to relax on the beach or practice yoga.



• Day 16 At Sea

• Day 17 Cochin

Cochin's trading past is reflected in its striking architecture where you'll see British, Portuguese, Dutch and Chinese influences.

• Day 18 Colombo

Sri Lanka's hectic capital is the gateway to the island's beaches, tea trails and elephant safaris.

• Days 19 - 20 At Sea

• Day 21 Phuket

Covered with rainforest and dotted with temples, Phuket's main draw is its beautiful beaches and crystal blue waters.



• Day 22 At Sea

• Day 23 Singapore (Disembark ship)

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

CRUISE

- 15 night full-board cruise on board Celebrity Constellation
- FREE all-inclusive drinks package when you book an Ocean View cabin or above

HOTEL STAYS

- 3 nights in Delhi
- 1 night in Agra
- 2 nights in Jaipur
- 1 night in Dubai

FULLY ESCORTED TOURS

- Jama Masjid Mosque
- Raj Ghat
- Humayun's Tomb
- Qutub Minar
- Taj Mahal
- Agra Fort
- Fatehpur Sikri
- Amber Fort
- Hawa Mahal
- Jantar Mantar Observatory



ALL FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS INCLUDED

FREE ALL-INCLUSIVE DRINKS PACKAGE WHEN BOOKING AN OCEAN VIEW CABIN OR ABOVE

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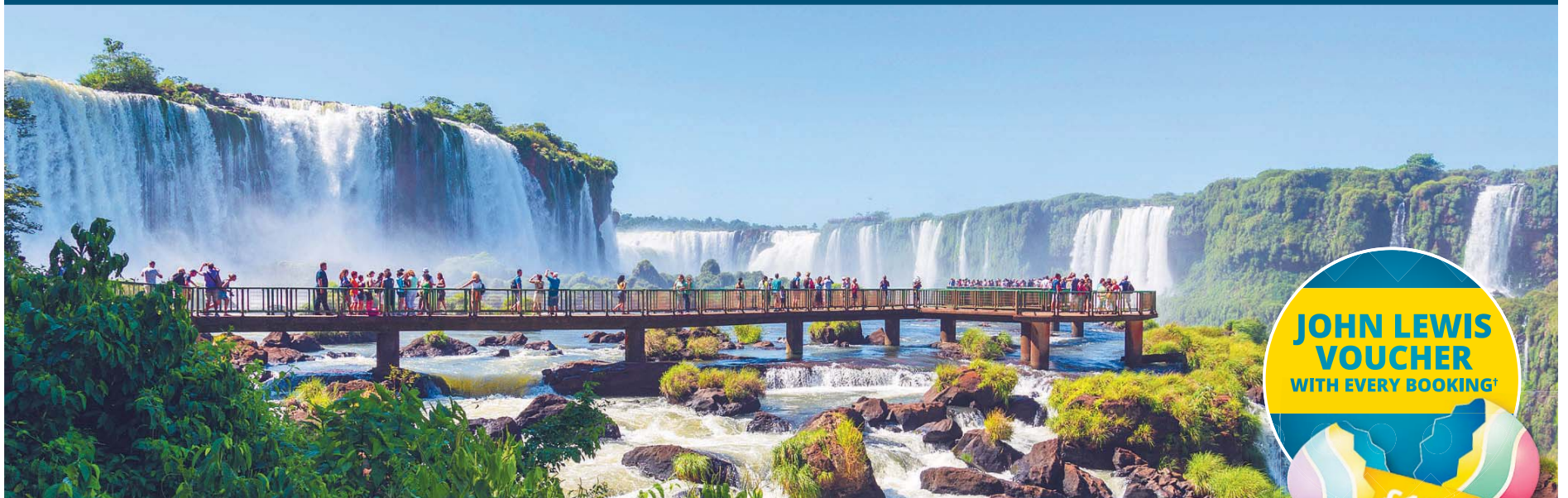
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ABTA
ABTA No. Y6300

South America Discovery

INCLUDES A CRUISE FROM ARGENTINA TO CHILE



JOHN LEWIS
VOUCHER
WITH EVERY BOOKING*

£100

DURATION: **22 NIGHTS**
DEPARTING: **13 FEBRUARY 2020**

INTERIOR *fr*
£3,499 *pp*

OCEANVIEW *fr*
£3,699 *pp*

BALCONY *fr*
£4,299 *pp*

SUITE *fr*
£4,999 *pp*



Experience the breathtaking scenery and colourful cultures of South America as you explore Rio and Iguazu Falls during a series of fully escorted tours, followed by a cruise from Buenos Aires to Santiago

DISCOVER YOUR ITINERARY

• Days 1 - 2 Rio de Janeiro (Hotel stay & tour)

A fully escorted tour will take you to the towering Christ the Redeemer statue for stunning views across the city.



• Day 3 - 5 Iguazu Falls (Hotel stay & tour)

You'll explore the Argentinian side of the falls. A network of accessible catwalks end in large balconies offering stunning views of this breathtaking natural wonder. Your tour also includes a visit to the Brazilian side of the Falls where you'll enjoy an incredible view of the 275 waterfalls.



• Days 6 - 7 Buenos Aires (Hotel stay) • Days 8 - 9 Buenos Aires (Embark Coral Princess, overnight in port)

You'll enjoy an overnight stay on board the ship in this colourful city, full of history, culture and natural beauty.



• Day 10 Montevideo • Day 11 At Sea • Day 12 Puerto Madryn • Day 13 At Sea • Day 14 Falkland Islands



• Day 15 Cape Horn (Scenic cruising)



• Day 16 Ushuaia • Day 17 Punta Arenas • Day 18 Amalia Glacier (Scenic cruising)

Cruise up close to this cool blue glacier overlooked by grand, snow-dusted mountains - the unspoilt beauty of this incredible region will take your breath away.



• Day 19 At Sea • Day 20 Puerto Montt • Day 21 At Sea • Day 22 San Antonio (Santiago) (Disembark ship & hotel stay)

Today you'll disembark Coral Princess in San Antonio for a one night hotel stay in Santiago.

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

CRUISE

- 14 night full-board cruise on board Coral Princess
- Revive body and mind with a relaxing treatment at the Lotus Spa
- Savour fresh and authentic Cajun and Creole cuisine at the Bayou Café and Steakhouse

HOTEL STAYS

- 2 nights in Rio de Janeiro
- 3 nights in Iguazu Falls
- 2 nights in Buenos Aires
- 1 night in Santiago at the Atton Vitacura

FULLY ESCORTED TOURS

- Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro
- Walking tour of Iguazu Falls including both the Brazilian and Argentinian sides of the falls



ALL LATAM AIRLINES
FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS
INCLUDED

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IGUAZU FALLS
& RIO DE JANEIRO
TOURS

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From Japan's Cherry Blossom to the Australian Outback

INCLUDES A NEW ZEALAND CRUISE



EXPERIENCE JAPAN'S
CHERRY BLOSSOM

JOHN LEWIS
VOUCHER
WITH EVERY BOOKING*

£100

DURATION: **18 NIGHTS**
DEPARTING: **25 MARCH 2020**

INTERIOR *fr*
£4,799 *pp*

OCEANVIEW *fr*
£4,999 *pp*

BALCONY *fr*
£5,799 *pp*

SUITE *fr*
£6,299 *pp*



From the iconic cherry blossom of Japan to the epic landscapes of Australia, this amazing holiday lets you explore two very different countries and cultures.

DISCOVER YOUR ITINERARY

• Days 1 - 3 Tokyo (Hotel stay & tour)

Your journey will take you through the outskirts of Tokyo and into the stunning rural scenery as you make your way to Fuji Subaru Line 5th Station and you'll get your first view of the volcano. Next, take the Hakone Ropeway to Lake Ashi, where you'll glide across the waters of the beautiful Crater Lake in a pirate boat.



Your stay coincides with Japan's famous 'Cherry Blossom season'. Every spring, thousands of trees across the Tokyo burst into colour, in ice-cream shades of white, pink and red.

• Day 4 Perth (Hotel stay)

• Days 5 - 8 Perth to Sydney (Indian Pacific)

Your four-day journey on board the Indian Pacific winds through a world of contrasts in southern Australia. Crossing the vast breadth of the country, your transcontinental journey takes in epic landscapes and dazzling cities.



• Days 8 - 10 Sydney (Hotel stay)

Sydney may not be Australia's capital, but it's certainly the most iconic city. During your stay, get acquainted with the big-hitting sights such as the stately Harbour Bridge, the serrated peaks of the Opera House and the beautiful swathes of Bondi Beach.



• Day 11 Sydney (Embark Ruby Princess)

• Days 12 - 13 At Sea

• Day 14 Fiordland National Park (Scenic cruising)

Scenic cruising will lead you through Fiordland National Park, the country's largest national park. Cliffs soar nearly a mile above the surface, with rainforests clinging to the land and the waters deep and pure.

• Day 15 Dunedin

Known as the 'Edinburgh of New Zealand', Dunedin is a southern city with a northern heart.

• Day 16 Akaroa

On the eastern shore of South Island, Akaroa feels decidedly French in flavour.

• Day 17 At Sea



• Day 18 Tauranga

The gateway to Rotorua, Tauranga offers privileged access to New Zealand's famous Maori culture.

• Day 19 Auckland (Disembark ship)

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

CRUISE

- 8 night full-board cruise on board Ruby Princess

HOTEL STAYS

- 3 night stay at the Tokyo Prince Hotel during the cherry blossom season
- 1 night in Perth at the Pan Pacific
- 3 nights in Sydney at The Grace

RAIL JOURNEY

- 3 night all-inclusive Gold Service Indian Pacific train journey; including all on board meals, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, off train excursions and Outback experiences

FULLY ESCORTED TOURS

- Mount Fuji including the Hakone Ropeway Cable Car
- Boat trip across Lake Ashi

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

- High-speed Bullet Train to Tokyo

INDIAN PACIFIC



ALL FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS INCLUDED

FULLY ESCORTED TOUR
OF MOUNT FUJI &
ALL-INCLUSIVE INDIAN
PACIFIC TRAIN JOURNEY

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ABTA
ABTA No. Y6300

Wonders of the World: From the Great Wall of China to the Taj Mahal

INCLUDES FULLY ESCORTED TOURS OF CHINA & INDIA



JOHN LEWIS
VOUCHER
WITH EVERY BOOKING*

£100

DURATION: **29 NIGHTS**
DEPARTING: **21 FEBRUARY 2020**

VISTA SUITE *fr*
£6,299_{pp}

VERANDA SUITE *fr*
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SILVERSEA®

Immerse yourself in the heart of Asia with a luxury Silversea cruise and two captivating tours that will take you from the Terracotta Warriors and Great Wall of China to the frenetic streets of Delhi and the Taj Mahal.

DISCOVER YOUR ITINERARY*

• Days 1 - 3 Beijing (Hotel stay & tour)

Visit the city's most famous sites, ancient and modern, including the Great Wall of China, the magnificent Temple of Heaven, the scarlet-walled Forbidden City and the vast Tiananmen Square.

• Days 4 - 5 Xi'an (Hotel stay & tour)

You'll visit one of the greatest archaeological sites in the world, the Terracotta Army of thousands of warriors created by Qin Shi Huang to protect him in the afterlife.



• Days 6 - 7 Shanghai (Hotel stay & tour)

Discover Shanghai in all its glory during a city tour followed by dinner and a spectacular acrobatic show.



• Day 8 FLY > Singapore (Hotel stay)

• Day 9 Singapore (Embark Silver Spirit)



• Day 11 Phuket

• Days 13 - 16 Yangon

You'll enjoy three nights in port in Yangon, an exotic city where monks wander the streets and towering pagodas pierce the sky.

• Days 19 - 20 Colombo

• Day 22 Cochin

• Days 24 - 25 Mumbai > Delhi (Disembark ship and transfer to Delhi for hotel stay & tour)

Your full day of sightseeing includes a tour of the walled city of Old Delhi. You'll also see the imposing India Gate on a tour of New Delhi and visit Humayun's Tomb.

• Day 26 Agra (Hotel stay & tour)



In Agra, you'll visit the world famous Taj Mahal, an architectural masterpiece in white marble with beautiful inlay work.

• Days 27 - 28 Jaipur (Hotel stay & tour)

During your time in Jaipur you'll see the intriguing red sandstone Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), the Amber Fort and the awe-inspiring Jantar Mantar Observatory.

• Day 29 Delhi (Hotel stay)



YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

CRUISE

- 15 night all-inclusive luxury cruise on board Silver Spirit

LUXURY HOTEL STAYS

- 3 nights in Beijing
- 2 nights in Xi'an
- 2 nights in Shanghai
- 1 night in Singapore at the One Farrer Hotel
- 3 nights in Delhi
- 1 night in Agra
- 2 nights in Jaipur

FULLY ESCORTED CHINA TOURS

- Great Wall of China
- Temple of Heaven
- Forbidden City
- Terracotta Army
- Shanghai City
- ERA Acrobatic Show

FULLY ESCORTED INDIA TOURS

- Humayun's Tomb
- Taj Mahal
- Agra Fort
- Fatehpur Sikri
- Amber Fort
- Hawa Mahal
- Jaipur City Palace

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ETIHAD
AIRWAYS



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FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS
INCLUDED

LUXURY
ALL-INCLUSIVE
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ABTA
ABTA No. Y6300

Mouth-watering series that could change your life

DELICIOUS WAY TO BEAT DIABETES

Exclusive videos: Watch Katie Caldesi cook new low-carb recipes — free for all Mail Plus members — at dailymailplus.co.uk/beatdiabetes



TODAY, in the fourth part of our groundbreaking series, NHS GP Dr David Unwin reveals what to do if you are addicted to sugar and carbs, while chef Giancarlo Caldesi and his food writer wife Katie offer more of their delicious low-carb recipes.



By DR DAVID UNWIN
with GIANCARLO CALDESI

ARE you finding it harder than you imagined to give up carbs and change your diet? Do you find you can't just eat one biscuit or square of chocolate, but instead you're reaching for the packet again and again?

If you really find yourself craving sweet or starchy things, and struggle to cut down, despite knowing how harmful it can be, you might be a sugar or carb addict.

This is not as fanciful as it may sound — in my opinion, sugar is a highly addictive substance, because when it is digested it produces 'feel good' chemicals in the brain.

As a doctor, I wondered for years why my advice around 'moderation' and 'cutting back' to help with weight loss seemed so ineffective, even after pointing out the serious risks to the patient's health that obesity and type 2 diabetes bring.

Then, one day, I realised some of my very obese patients were exhibiting similar behaviour to other people who struggle with moderation; such as those addicted to drugs or alcohol. What if they really could not easily just 'cut back' any more than a person with an alcohol problem can stop drinking? It would make far more sense if obesity was not just the result of a dietary choice or greed, but instead part of a psychological and physical compulsion to eat certain foods.

Around seven years ago, I was starting to notice a 'middle-aged spread' in myself and realised it was partly because of a nasty snacking habit I had developed.

I kept biscuits in my desk, and I'd munch a few throughout the day, particularly in anticipation of a stressful patient.

When I could easily get through three, even though I wasn't hungry, I decided to stop.

I was astonished to find giving up biscuits completely took me a year. Asking around, I found

patients were having similar problems, but not always with sweet foods. These days, I find a new 'bread addict' about every two weeks.

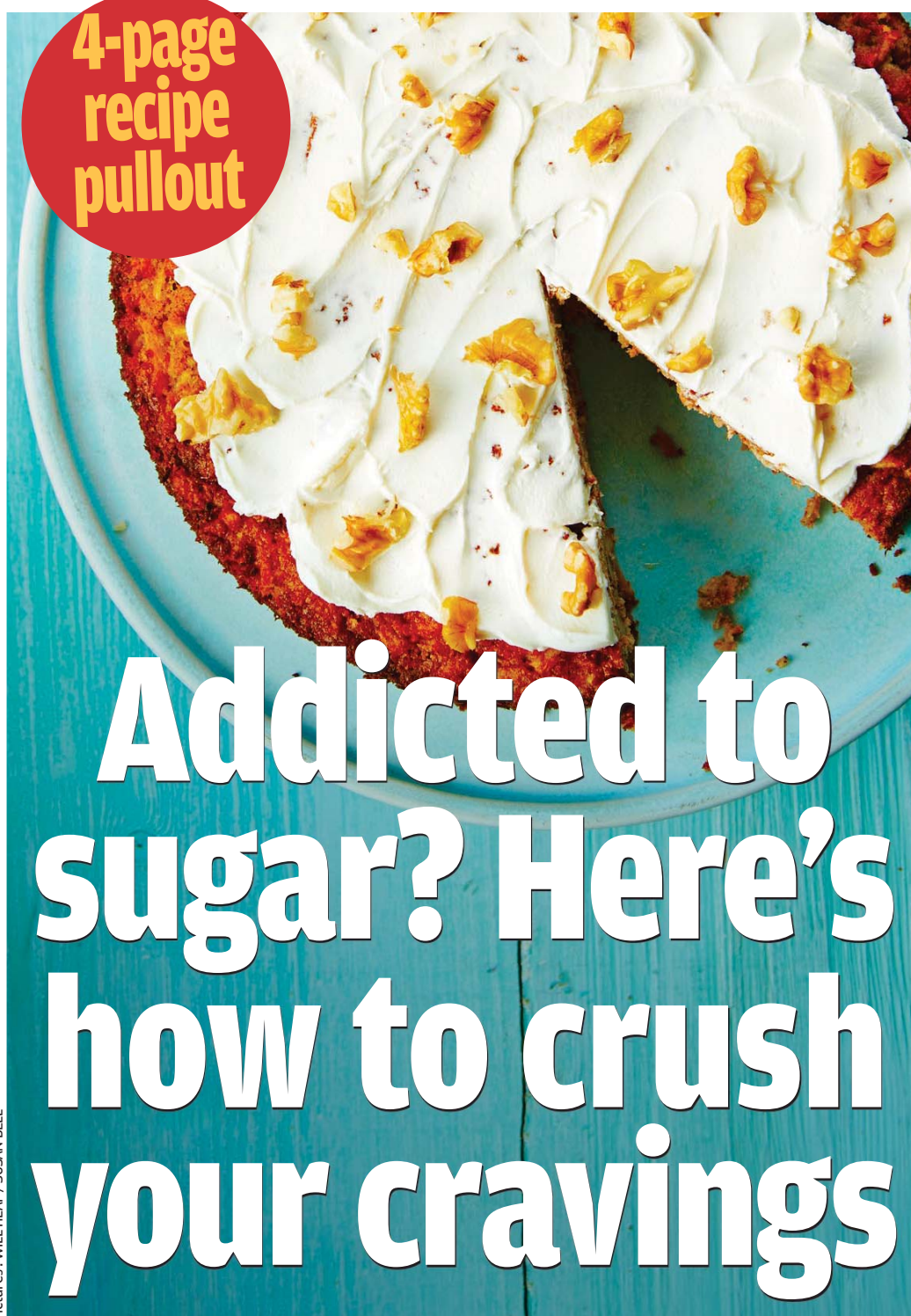
People for whom even the thought of giving it up causes distress. Of course, if you are a lucky person who is addiction-free, you may well struggle to

understand this, but perhaps you can see it would help explain how for many people obesity is not simply a lifestyle choice but something more complex.

A number of reputable scientific studies have identified that for some people, eating high-GI

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

4-page
recipe
pullout



Spiced walnut cake

DEPENDING on the season, you can use the natural sweetness in a carrot or parsnip to make this flavour-packed cake. The mixture can also be cooked as 20 mini-muffins, which take around 12 minutes to cook.

SERVES 10

Per serving: Calories, 203; carbohydrates, 10g; protein, 5.8g; fat, 15g; fibre, 3.5g

- 100g butter or coconut oil, plus a little more for greasing
- 2 medjool dates, chopped
- 1 medium carrot or parsnip
- 2 apples
- 100g walnuts, chopped
- 4 medium eggs
- 100g ground almonds
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
- Pinch of ground cloves

HEAT the oven to 180C/gas mark 4. Generously butter a medium, loose-bottomed, shallow 24 cm cake tin. Using a fork, mash the dates in a bowl with two tablespoons of very hot water to form a paste. Pour this into a sieve and force it through with the back of a spoon into a large mixing bowl. Discard any remaining skin from the dates.

Grate the carrot (or parsnip) and apples into the bowl. Add the remaining ingredients and mix together thoroughly with a large spoon.

Spoon into the prepared tin and bake for 25 minutes. Check that a toothpick or skewer comes out clean when inserted — if not, cook for a few more minutes.

Remove from the oven and allow the cake to cool for 20 minutes before removing it from the tin.

Serve on its own or with a light spreading of cream cheese.

PICTURES: WILL HEAP / SUSAN BELL

THE DELICIOUS WAY TO BEAT DIABETES

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

foods (those with a high glycaemic index, a measurement of how rapidly they cause sugar to be released into the bloodstream) can trigger changes in the chemistry of the brain and behaviour similar to other addictions.

HOW CAN I TELL IF I AM ADDICTED?

THE following, adapted from the Yale Food Addiction Scale, is a tool developed by Yale University's Rudd Centre for Food Policy And Obesity in 2009 to identify those who exhibit addictive symptoms with the consumption of foods. Consider the following seven statements to see how many correctly describe your relationship with sugary or high-starch carbohydrate foods.

1. I HAVE cravings or a strong desire for the food.
2. I SUFFER more cravings and other physical symptoms of withdrawal if the food is not available. These symptoms are relieved by consuming that food.
3. I EAT the food in larger quantities, or for longer than I intended.
4. I WANT to cut down on my consumption or quit entirely but I find I am not able to.
5. I SPEND a lot of time obtaining or planning how to get the food.
6. I EAT the food consistently despite acknowledging that it brings me persistent physical or psychological problems or other harm arising from it.
7. I NEED to eat increased amounts of the food to get the same desired satisfaction from it.

If two or more of these statements apply to you, then you may have a food or carbohydrate addiction.

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

IN MY own case, the 'biscuit problem' was solved by a two-pronged attack — progressive reduction of the snacking, along with transferring to less addictive foods; first, plain oat biscuits, then non-salted almonds or walnuts.

If you are struggling with a sugar or carbohydrate addiction, the chances are that gradually reducing your intake just won't work for you. If so, you may want to try a 'cold turkey' approach.

Plan in advance and pick a day to give up whatever is your problem food, and be prepared for a couple of difficult days where you may feel tired and have headaches. Be sure to drink plenty of water and have a little extra salt with your meals during these early days — you'll see the medical reasons why this tip is so helpful in the Q&A on the last page of this supplement.

HOW CAN I DEAL WITH CRAVINGS?

IF CRAVINGS strike, try snacking on full-fat yoghurt with some raspberries instead, or a handful of almonds or a few squares of 90 per cent dark chocolate, which contains very little sugar.

Food cravings are caused by the regions of the brain responsible for memory, pleasure and reward, and can be complex in origin, in the same way that other addictions are.

An imbalance of hormones such as leptin and serotonin can also cause food cravings. It is also possible that cravings could be triggered by the endorphins released after someone has eaten — leading them to want to repeat the pleasurable feeling.

However, cravings may also be triggered by emotional issues, particularly if the person eats for comfort or when distressed.

Physical cravings are often time-limited so if you can distract yourself for, say, 20 to 30 minutes, by going for a walk, then the urge to eat something will naturally ease after time. Be aware of this — and also that the craving will pass in time.

Find other rewards to focus on: a long, hot bath, your favourite TV series or a chat with a friend.

After a few weeks it will all be worth it and you will start to feel clear-headed and more energetic — and perhaps lighter on the scales, too!



Seed and nut loaf

THIS dense, nutty brown loaf is adapted from Sarah Britton's 'Life-Changing Loaf' recipe, which she developed while she was living in Denmark (see her version at mynewroots.org). It is gorgeous with butter, cheese or pate. As it is packed with nuts and seeds, it is high in fat — so don't scoff too much in one go.

MAKES 1 (16 slices)

Per slice: Calories, 162; carbohydrates, 5.1g; protein, 4.9g; fat, 12g; fibre, 6.2g

- 135g sunflower seeds, plus 1 tbsp to finish (optional)
- 90g ground flaxseeds
- 65g hazelnuts or almonds
- 75g quinoa flakes or oats
- 2 tbsp chia seeds
- 3 tbsp psyllium husk powder (from health food shops)
- 1 tsp fine salt
- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, butter, ghee or coconut oil, plus extra to grease

PUT the dry ingredients into a mixing bowl and stir. Add 475ml of water and your choice of fat and stir through with a spoon to form a firm dough.

Preheat the oven to 200c/gas mark 6. Grease a loaf tin and line with baking parchment with flaps over the sides of the tin to help you lift the loaf out. Spoon the dough into the tin and flatten down the top, scattering over the seed topping (if using). Let the dough sit for 20 minutes, then bake for 45 minutes.

Slide a knife around the loaf, tip it out of the tin and place it upside down on a rack in the oven so that the heat can flow around it evenly.

Remove the paper. Let it cook for a further 30 minutes, until it sounds hollow when tapped and is firm to the touch.

Let the loaf cool to room temperature before slicing.

If not freezing, store in a bag or sealed container for up to five days in the fridge or a cool place.



Scones with strawberry chia jam

THESE delightful little scones are best cooked in mini muffin moulds and served with strawberry chia jam and clotted or whipped cream.

MAKES 8

Per scone: Calories, 126; carbohydrates, 1.7g; protein, 4.1g; 11g; fibre, 1.7g

Per serving of jam: Calories, 62; carbohydrates, 6.4g; protein, 1.2g; fat, 1.5g; fibre, 5.1g

- 100g ground almonds
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 30g melted butter
- 2 tbsp natural yoghurt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 large egg



Lemon and blueberry cake

BUTTERY almond cake meets sharp lemon curd and vanilla whipped cream in this impressive celebration cake. The clever part is that the egg whites lighten the cake while the leftover yolks make the velvety lemon curd.

SERVES 8

Per serving: Calories, 470; carbohydrates, 15g; protein, 8.3g; fat, 41g; fibre, 6.1g

FOR THE CAKE:

- 2 medjool dates, chopped
- Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 200g ground almonds
- 35g coconut flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 75g melted butter
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 150ml whole milk
- 3 medium egg whites

FOR THE LEMON CURD:

- 2 medjool dates
- 4 tbsp of water
- 6 tbsp lemon juice
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 70g butter
- 4 egg yolks, beaten

TO SERVE:

- 180ml whipped cream
- 150g blueberries

HEAT the oven to 180c. Grease a baking tin. For the cake, melt the dates in a microwave bowl. Add the milk, coconut flour and almond flour. Sieve the date puree into a bowl. Add the milk and



Strawberry chia jam

FOR THE JAM:

- 300g strawberries, hulled and roughly cut
- 1 tbsp chia seeds
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

HEAT the oven to 180c/gas mark 4. Mix the dry ingredients in a bowl. Add the butter, yoghurt and vanilla extract and stir, making sure they are well blended. Separate the egg and put the white into a large bowl. Keep the yolk for the glaze. Whisk the egg white to form stiff peaks. Use a spoon to fold it gently into the almond mixture, keeping as much air in as possible. Divide the mixture between eight mini muffin moulds and bake for 15 minutes, or until golden and firm to the touch. To make the jam, whizz the fruit, seeds and vanilla briefly in a small food processor until smooth. Tip into a bowl and chill until ready to serve.

Strawberry cake

LEMON CURD:

es, chopped
r
juice (approx 1 lemon)
n
aten
d cream
es
170c/gas mark 3.
in and line with paper.
t the dates in the lemon
ave for 30 seconds and
gether the almonds,
d baking powder in a
elted butter, vanilla
on zest and stir through.
ure into the bowl, then
stir. Whisk the egg

whites until they form stiff peaks. Mix some of the egg whites into the batter to loosen it, then fold the remaining whites in with a spoon. Spoon the batter into the tin and bake for 25-30 minutes, or until golden brown. Leave to cool. For the lemon curd, put the dates, water and lemon juice into a saucepan and bring to a gentle boil, mashing the dates with a fork until they dissolve. Remove from the heat and sieve into a bowl. Put the date puree back into the saucepan and stir in the zest and butter. Tip in the beaten egg yolks while stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon. When they are well combined, put the pan over a gentle heat once more and stir constantly until the curd thickens. Remove from the heat straight away and allow to cool before using. Use a spatula to spread the cake with a generous layer of lemon curd, plus the whipped cream and blueberries.

Magic muffins

THIS recipe comes from Katy Threlfall from Dr Unwin's low-carb patient group. As a busy mum, she makes one each day for a late breakfast or to carry on the go. The muffins can be eaten just as they are or topped with crème fraîche and strawberries.

SERVES 1

Per serving: Calories, 536; carbohydrates, 15g; protein, 21g; fat, 42g; fibre, 7.5g

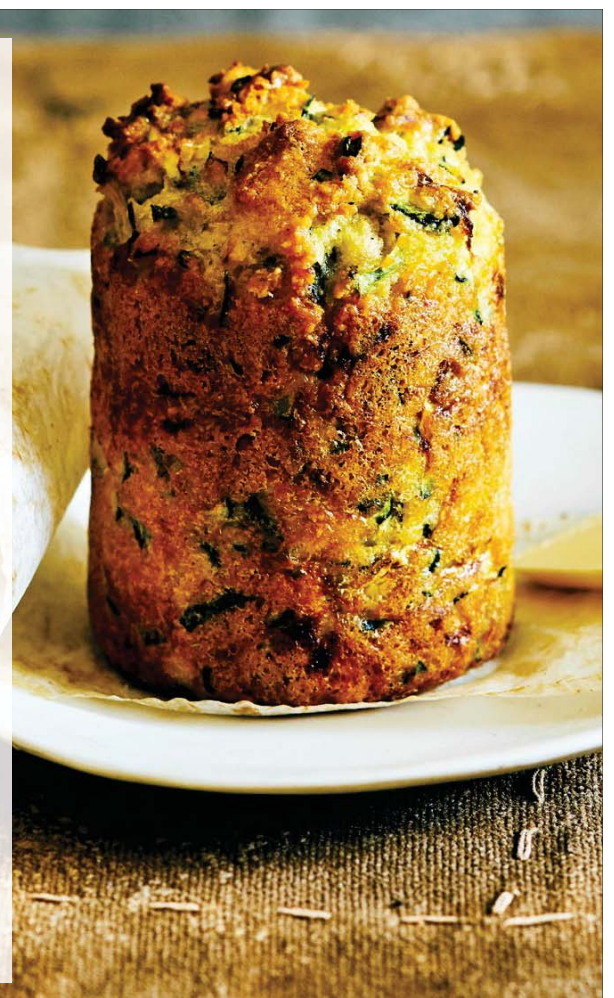
- 1 egg
- 1 knob of butter or 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
- 50g ground almonds
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- ½ apple or pear, grated

MIX the egg and fat together in a bowl, then add other ingredients and stir well. Spoon into a mug and microwave on full power for three minutes.

VARIATIONS

SAVOURY: Use the standard recipe but instead of the apple add half a grated courgette, pinch of dried oregano, 15g grated Parmesan and a tablespoon chopped coriander. After cooking the muffin, cut it into slices and top with cream cheese, cherry tomatoes and torn basil leaves.

CHOCOLATE: Use the standard recipe and add a teaspoon cocoa powder, half a teaspoon vanilla extract and pieces of 90 per cent dark chocolate.



Flax seed and Parmesan crackers

THESE bite-size crackers are versatile. They are ideal for packed lunches (we suggest a serving is three crackers), to serve with cheese or paté, or to use as a low-carb, gluten-free base for canapes. Made from seeds and nuts, they are filling and packed with nutrients. Add dried herbs, spices or seeds for extra flavour.

SERVES 16

Per serving: Calories, 92; carbohydrates, 0.7g; protein, 2.1g; fat, 8.7g; fibre, 1.3g

- 50g sunflower seeds
- 50g flax seeds
- 2 tsp chia seeds
- 100g ground almonds
- 25g Parmesan

- 100g butter
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp water
- 1 tbsp rosemary, chopped
- 1 tbsp black onion seeds

HEAT the oven to 170c/gas mark 3. Cut three pieces of baking parchment the size of a large baking tray. Put the three types of seeds into a food processor and grind to obtain a flour. Tip into a bowl and add the remaining ingredients. Stir to form a well-blended dough and divide into two balls. Transfer one ball of dough to one of the pieces of baking parchment on a work surface. Put another piece of paper over the top and use a rolling pin to

flatten to around ½ cm. Use a palette knife to neaten the edges to make a rectangle. Roll again with the top paper in place. Transfer the base paper with the crackers to a baking tray. Cut the dough into approx 24 squares. You don't need to separate them before cooking as they will pull apart after they are cooked. Do the same with the other ball of dough. Bake the crackers for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown and firm to the touch. Leave to cool. Break the crackers apart (there should be 48 in total, 16 servings) and store in an airtight container for up to three days. If they become soft, they can be firmed up in a hot oven for a few minutes.

THE DELICIOUS WAY TO BEAT DIABETES



Coconut and raspberry squares

COCONUT gives a natural sweetness to a dish, which means you can limit any added sugar.

SERVES 12

Per serving: Calories, 202; carbohydrates, 4.7g; protein, 5.4g; fat, 17g; fibre, 3.6g

- 2 medjool dates, chopped
- 100ml milk, either cow's or nut
- 100g butter
- 2 tsp vanilla extract or 1 tsp vanilla powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 100g desiccated coconut
- 50g coconut flour
- 6 medium eggs
- 125g raspberries

PUT the dates and milk into a bowl and microwave for 1 minute to soften them. Mix, then sieve, the mixture over a bowl; it should form a thick paste. Add the other ingredients to the bowl and mix. Pour into a baking tin. Bake at 170C / gas mark 3 for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool before cutting into 12 squares.



Brown 'bread' baps

USE these low-carb rolls to make a bacon butty for breakfast. We like them with garlic butter.

MAKES 4

Per serving: Calories, 314; carbohydrates, 1.8g; protein, 26g; fat, 26g; fibre, 6.8g

- ½ tsp baking powder
- 50g ground flax seed
- 125g ground almonds
- 125g mozzarella, coarsely grated
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp salt

MIX the ingredients into a dough, divide it into four balls and put them onto a baking tray. Pat them down a little to form a bap shape around 1.5cm deep. Bake at 180C/gas mark 4 for 20 minutes, or until browned and firm to the touch. Allow to cool before slicing and filling.

Will going low-carb make me feel dizzy?

Dr Unwin answers your key dieting questions

Q: I'VE just started my low-carb plan and I have dizziness/cramps and feel lousy — what do you advise?

A: THE first few days of cutting down on carbs can be difficult. Your system may have been running on sugar for years, so this may be a form of metabolic shock; it takes time for the system to swap to burning fat as fuel instead.

Make sure you drink enough water. Many people find they need extra salt on a lower-carb diet. This is because insulin, the hormone your body produces to regulate blood sugar, causes you to retain salt — so cutting sugar may result in excreting salt in your urine. In turn, this loss of salt can lower your blood pressure.

When I started a low-carb diet, I felt dizzy if I stood up suddenly, because of changes in my blood pressure.

Some people get muscle cramps and weakness. Again, a bit more salt may be the remedy, and sometimes magnesium supplements also help. If problems persist, see your GP.

Q: I'VE done your quiz on how carbs affect our bodies and I'm worried that I might have type 2 diabetes. What should I do now?

A: PLEASE contact your GP. They may want to do a few simple blood tests.

Q: WHAT can I eat for breakfast if cereals and toast are off-limits?

A: TRY full-fat yoghurt with nuts and berries; an omelette with cheese; or a English breakfast with eggs, bacon, mushroom and tomato.

Q: WHAT about when I'm travelling or at work?

A: BUY slices of meat, cheese or crudities. Low-carb bread sandwiches are also good, as is a salad box with meat, eggs or cheese. I always travel with some almonds and a bar of dark chocolate for emergencies — the higher the percentage of cocoa, the less sugar.

Q: HOW do I deal with cravings for carbohydrates or sugar?

A: THIS can be so hard! I substituted sugary snacks with almonds, raspberries or very dark chocolate. Over time, my snacking habit died away.

Q: WHAT can I have to drink?

A: WATER (still or sparkling); tea or coffee, but avoid lattes as each 100ml of milk is equivalent to about a teaspoon of sugar.

You can have alcohol in moderation — but stick to spirits such as gin, whisky and vodka, which are lower in sugar, or red wine. Beer is full of sugar, so much so that my son Rob calls it 'liquid toast'.

The UK guidelines advise limiting alcohol to 14 units a week, but I would drink less than this if you want to lose weight. I stick to less than four units a week, as alcohol makes me hungry.



Picture: ALAMY

Q: Could I reverse type 2 diabetes and other health problems by losing weight on another diet plan?

A: YES. Weight loss, however you achieve it, can help type 2 diabetes. Studies have shown that, as well as low-carb diets, low-calorie diets or even bariatric surgery can be effective. Exercise is another key way to improve your health. Examine the pros and cons of each approach with your doctor, then decide what suits you best.

Q: YOU say to be careful about eating fruit, but surely this is good for you?

A: IT DEPENDS how much fruit and which type. Choose less sugary fruits such as berries over more sugary tropical fruits, such as a bananas or pineapple. Consume whole fruit rather than juicing it, which speeds up the release of sugar from the fruit. Watch out for dried fruit — 100g of raisins could be worse in terms of sugar than a couple of digestive biscuits.

Q: HOW long will it take before I see a noticeable change in my health?

A: ON AVERAGE, my type 2 diabetes patients lose weight after three weeks and are surprised to not feel hungry.

Q: I AM slim but I eat lots of carbs and sugar. Do I also need to follow a low-carb diet?

A: YOU may tolerate a high carb and sugar diet — but it's difficult to be certain you are not storing up trouble for the future. Twenty per cent of UK adults now has a fatty liver, which can lead to type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney disease. Most have no idea that they have it or that it can affect their health.

Q: WON'T eating saturated fat be bad for my cholesterol?

A: GOING low-carb can mean eating a diet higher in full-fat dairy, eggs and good fats such as olive oil.

In the early days, I did worry about the effects on cholesterol and the risk of cardiovascular disease in my patients.

However, I was surprised to find their average cholesterol came down.

This, together with the improved blood pressure and weight loss they experienced, could suggest improved heart health.

The saturated fat debate remains contentious. But a recent review (involving eight studies and 1,600 participants) concluded: 'Large randomised controlled trials of at least six months duration with carbohydrate restriction appear superior in improving lipid markers [cholesterol and other blood fats] when compared with low-fat diets.'

For anyone with familial hypercholesterolemia, a genetic form of high cholesterol, or readers who worry about cholesterol, speak to your GP before embarking on this new plan.

NOTE: Always consult your GP before starting a new diet, particularly if you take prescribed medication.

■ **RECIPES** by Katie Caldesi. *The Diabetes Weight-Loss Cookbook* by Katie and Giancarlo Caldesi is published by Kyle Books at £20. To order a copy for £16 (offer valid until April 27, 2019; P&P free), visit mail shop.co.uk/books or call 0844 571 0640.

TOMORROW: YES, YOU CAN STILL HAVE A TAKEAWAY!



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SUDOKU

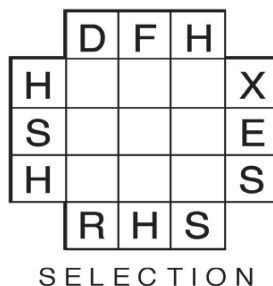
FILL in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. Solutions tomorrow.

	1	2	5			9		3
				4	3	1		
3	9				2		8	
9				3			5	
1	8					6	7	
		5	1	6				2
2			4	5				9
8	7				9		1	

Difficulty rating ★★★★★

NINE TO FIVE

FIT the scrambled letters of the given word into the grid to form six five-letter words across and down. Solution tomorrow.



PRIZE SUDOKU

YOU have the chance to win £250 by completing the Sudoku puzzle above to discover the three shaded squares. TO ENTER: Text SUDOKU followed by a space, your answer (reading left to right), name and postcode to 65700 (e.g. SUDOKU 123 John Smith W8 5TT). Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. Or call 0901 292 5009 and leave your answer. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. **ONE prize of £250 is available each week. The winner will be chosen from all the correct entries received between Monday at 00:01 and Friday at 23:59. Answers change each day at 23:59. General promotions rules apply – see overleaf.**

£250

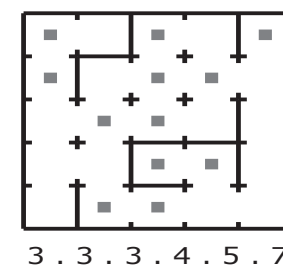
Phone & Text Services Helpline: DMG Media Mobile & TV 08082720808.

HIDATO

55		57				67		72
	53		61	59	64	66		68
	42	40						
			38					
		44			30			
	47	45	28	29		34	33	
		25						
	22	24						
	18	15	13	11		9		6
		16			1	3	4	

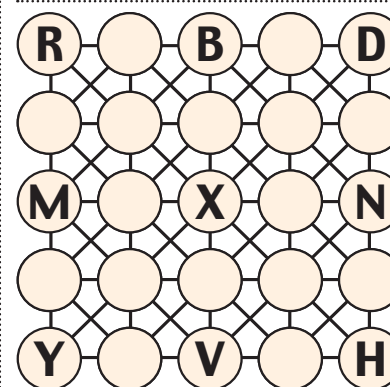
COMPLETE the grid so that all the numbers, 1 to 72, connect consecutively – horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Hint: you don't have to begin with 1 or 72. Working on the mid-numbers might give you a better start. Solution tomorrow.

ISOLATE



3 . 3 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 7

ADD to the walls already drawn to divide the grid's 25 squares into areas. Each area must have a number of squares corresponding to one of the figures below the grid. Each must contain two grey dots. Each + must be linked to at least two walls. Hints: No area is smaller than two squares. Areas cannot double back on themselves as that would leave a + linked to only one wall. Try to decide which grey dots must be in the same area. Solution tomorrow.



GOGEN

BALM
CLAMP
ENOUGH
EXAM
FLAWED
HUSKY
JET
MISQUOTED
NOW
VICAR

INSERT letters to form the listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction. Insert all the remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) in the grid so all the listed words are spelt out in this way. Solution tomorrow.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

ZYGOLEX

FIND the missing words by following the RHYME, MEANING and LETTERS links, where one letter always changes, e.g. a word that rhymes with 'cheek', has the same 'meaning' as 'mountain' and has one letter different from 'pear' would be 'peak'. Full rules at www.zygolex.com. Solution tomorrow.

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

www.30secondchallenge.com

START on the left with the number given and follow the instructions as you go across. Within the 30-second time limit, beginners have to complete their own challenge, intermediates have to

complete their own challenge AND the beginners' challenge, and advanced players have to complete their own challenge AND the intermediate. Answers on Coffee Break back page.

YOUR ANSWERS

Beginner	58	+5	÷7	x6	DOUBLE IT	÷3	+40	1/2 OF IT	+10	÷6
Intermediate	28	+42	TIMES ITSELF	5% OF IT	2/5 OF IT	+6	1/8 OF IT	TIMES ITSELF	+6	11/25 OF IT
Advanced	89	50% OF IT	x10	LESS 20%	-100	62 1/2% OF IT	PLUS 45%	LESS 12 1/2%	-50	8/17 OF IT

NAME GAME

HIDDEN in the grid is the name of a former tennis star. Answer the questions, then re-arrange the letters corresponding to your answers to fill in the name. Solution tomorrow.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

BOX 1: In which year did Virginia Wade (pictured) win the women's singles title at Wimbledon?

1975 (K)
1977 (S)
1979 (C)

BOX 2: What is the approximate length in miles of the River Medway in South East England?

70 (I)
170 (Y)
270 (H)

BOX 3: What is the official language of Sierra Leone?

English (E)
French (O)
Portuguese (P)

BOX 4: Renin is an enzyme secreted by which human organ?

Liver (C)
Kidneys (R)
Heart (H)

BOX 5: What is a weevil?

Beetle (A)
Bird (N)
Frog (U)

BOX 6: Pablo Honey was the 1993 debut album by which band?

Blur (M)
Pulp (L)
Radiohead (T)

BOX 7: In cricket, who won the 2018 County Championship?

Surrey (G)
Yorkshire (W)
Essex (B)

BOX 8: Who won the Best Actor Oscar in 1994 for his role in the film Philadelphia?

Tom Hanks (F)

Michael Douglas (D)
Dustin Hoffman (V)

BOX 9: In which part of the human body is the gastrocnemius muscle?

Arm (J)
Leg (F)
Neck (X)

BOX 10: Thomas Gradgrind and Sissy Jupe are characters from which novel by Charles Dickens?

Hard Times (F)
Little Dorrit (Z)
Oliver Twist (R)

Yesterday's answer:

KYM MARSH
(1K, 2A, 3R, 4M, 5Y, 6H, 7M, 8S).



Picture: GETTY / TONY DUFFY

SUDOKU X

	5				
	6				
	2	3			
2		1			

PUT each of the digits 1-6 once in every row, column, diagonal (highlighted to form an X) and horizontal 3x2 box (ruled). Solution tomorrow.

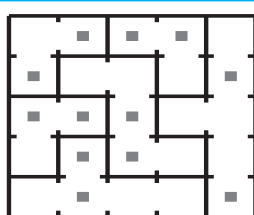
QUICK QUIZ

1. What is the first name of Susannah Fielding's character in the comedy series This Time With Alan Partridge?
2. In which country is the town of Darjeeling?
3. Which Oscar-winning English actor has been married to actress Sinead Cusack since 1978?
4. In which decade was BBC television newsreader Matthew Amroliwala born?
5. In job adverts, for what does the T in OTE stand?

ANSWERS ON BACK OF COFFEE BREAK

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLES

FOR yesterday's Sudoku and Sudoku X solutions, see overleaf



GUACAMOLE

	15	18	19	42	43
14	12	16	17	20	41
13	11	10	21	26	40
8	9	22	27	28	25
7	3	2	23	24	29
4	6	1	31	30	35
	5	32	33	34	36

coffeebreak

PITCHERWITS™



1a. Shoe – genuine mistake for place of power (6,5)



14a. Separate melody ends act in play (7)



1d. Tone deaf? Don't have it! (3,3,5)



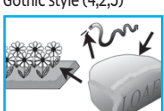
6d. Upset at being in Northern parts, USA (7)



5a. Insures scheme for daybreak (7)



16a. Surface of motel, Gothic style (4,2,5)

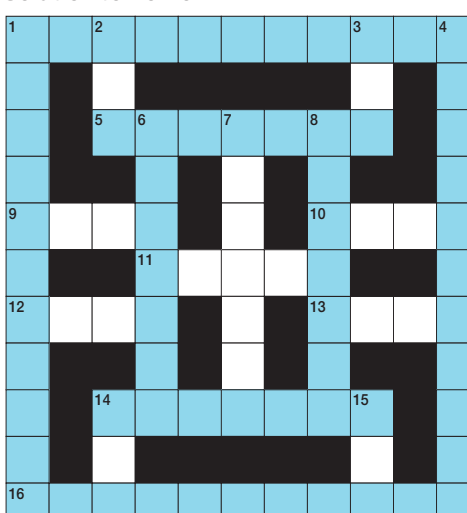


4d. Actress, hurt about something to live on (6,5)



8d. Cheese from tin, lost and grated (7)

Pit your wits against Pitcherwits – the exciting puzzle where some of the answers are in pictures! The solutions to the visual clues fit into the shaded spaces on the grid. Solution tomorrow.



ACROSS

- 1 Picture Clue
- 5 Picture Clue
- 9 Musical piece in soup recipe (4)
- 10 It's a measure of unflinching cutbacks (4)
- 11 Controlled section for ugly one (5)
- 12 From Icarus comes a bit of rock (4)
- 13 Coastal chalk, mined for powder (4)
- 14 Picture Clue
- 16 Picture Clue

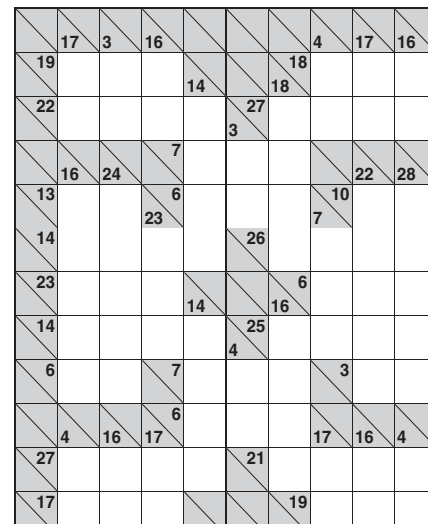
Yesterday's solution **ACROSS**: 1 Fatherlike, 5 Beetroot, 9 Snub, 10 Dame, 11 Exile, 12 Axis, 14 Pram, 15 Knee-hole, 18 Bottled out. **DOWN**: 1 Flashback, 2 Hobbles, 3 Lit, 4 Ego, 6 Eat into, 7 Ova, 8 Treatment, 10 Deep end, 13 Ice, 16 Nib, 17 Hat.

PITCHERWITS BOOK OFFER

PITCHERWITS – Vol. 4 by Professor Rebus is published by Octopus Publishing, priced £8.99. Offer price £7.19 (20% discount) until April 30, 2019. Order at www.mailshop.co.uk/books or call 0844 571 0640. P&P is free on orders over £15. Spend £30 on books and get FREE premium delivery.

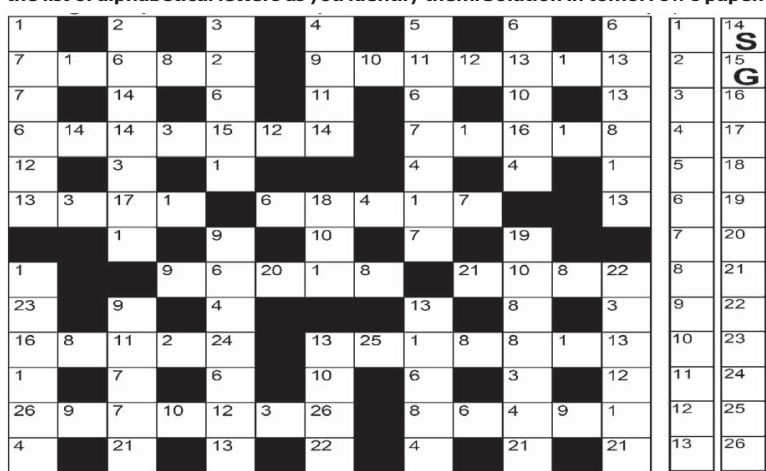
KAKURO

FILL in the blank squares of the grid using only the numbers 1 to 9, without repeating any number in any line of blank squares. The lines must be filled in with numbers which add up to the total in the shaded box at the top or beginning of each line. A number in the bottom half of a shaded box gives a downwards total: in the top half, it's a horizontal total. Solution tomorrow.



CODEWORD

EACH number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 14 represents S, so fill in S every time the figure 14 appears. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the list of alphabetical letters as you identify them. Solution in tomorrow's paper.

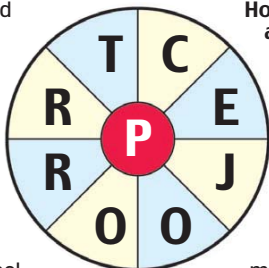


CODEWORD Vol. 12 Now Out! ** Send £6.95 (incl UK p&p) by cheque/postal order payable to Knight Features: Trident Ctr, 89 Bickersteth Rd, London SW17 9SH. For credit card orders see www.codewordbook.co.uk. Allow up to 21 days for delivery. Earlier books are also available. 7345

Need a little help getting started? Then call for up to four extra clue letters on: 0901 322 5308. Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge. Or text **CODEWORD** to 65700 to receive your codeword clues. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Phone & Text Services Helpline: DMG Media Mobile & TV 08082720808

WORD WHEEL

YOU have ten minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each word must use the hub letter and at least three others, and letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns, but verb forms ending in 's' are permitted. There is one nine-letter word in the wheel, for which today's clue is: Scheme, or apparatus for showing a film.



How you rate: 15 words, average; 20 words, good; 25 words, very good; 30 or more, excellent. Solution tomorrow. Yesterday's words: accent, acne, amen, ament, ante, anthem, cane, cant, catchment, cent, chance, chant, enact, etchant, hance, hetman, mane, mean, meant, name, natch, neat, neath, nema, nett, tanh, tenth, tent, tenth, than, thane, then.

MINDBENDER

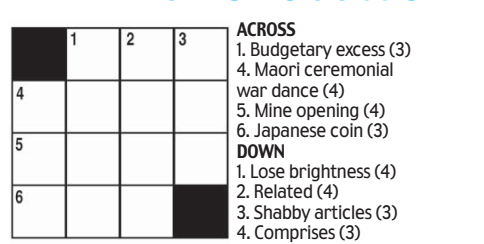
1. In a survey of 1,000 people from Lancashire, 801 said they had supped ale at King Verence's coronation, 469 said they had slurped mead and 412 had enjoyed both. How many people imbibed neither ale nor mead at the event?
2. What connects blanket, honeycomb and book?
3. Which chip off the old political block may pursue HYENA SOLIDLY?
4. Which is the odd one out: Hendon Way, Cleveland Way, Pennine Way, Cotswold Way?
5. Crack the code to find three Roman deities: UFYZ, GPFYD, GFWNLY.

MASTERQUIZ

1. The stage musical Promises, Promises is based on which Billy Wilder movie?
2. The Oppian Hill is the southernmost spur of which of the Seven Hills of Rome?
3. Nice, in the South of France, sits on which Mediterranean bay?
4. Activist and entrepreneur Meg Mathews is the ex-wife of which British guitarist?
5. In Greek mythology, the giant Argus had more than the usual complement of which physical feature?
6. What nationality is the largest non-native minority group in Iceland?

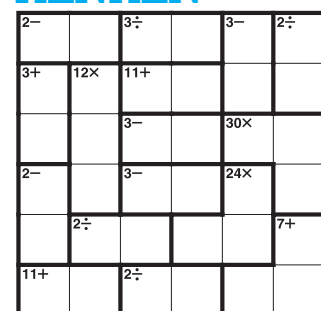
Answers overleaf

WORLD'S SMALLEST, HARDEST CROSSWORD



Yesterday's solution **ACROSS**: 1 Achy, 5 Toea, 6 Trin, 7 Nerk. **DOWN**: 1 Attn, 2 Core, 3 Heir, 4 Yank.

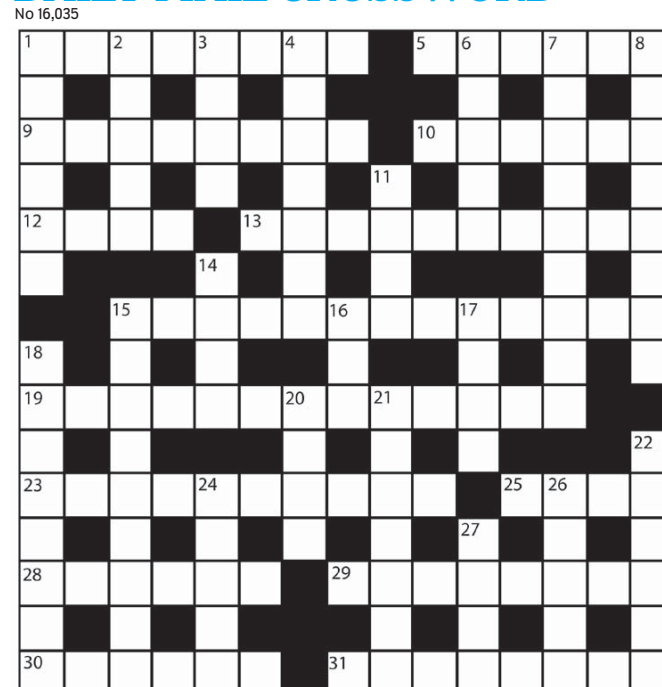
KENKEN



Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 to 6 without repeats. The numbers in the 'cages' (heavily outlined boxes) must combine to produce the target number shown at the start of that cage, using, in any order, the mathematical sign given. Single box cages can be filled in with the number given. Solution tomorrow. Yesterday's KenKen solution

2	1	3	4	6	5
4	3	6	1	5	2
1	2	4	5	3	6
6	4	5	2	1	3
3	5	1	6	2	4
5	6	2	3	4	1

DAILY MAIL CROSSWORD



PRIZES OF £20 will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct solutions checked. Solutions to: Daily Mail Prize Crossword No. 16,035, PO BOX 3451, Norwich, NR7 7NR. Entries may be submitted by second-class post. Envelopes must be postmarked no later than tomorrow. Please make sure you enclose your name and address.

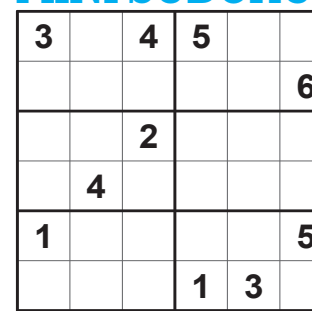
SOLUTION TO PRIZE CROSSWORD No 16,032: **ACROSS**: 1 Abscond, 5 Titian, 9 Fleming, 10 Albumen, 11 Imp, 12 Stockholder, 13 Tenor, 14 Adulatory, 16 Pepper pot, 17 Ethos, 19 Word-perfect, 22 Ton, 23 Amnesia, 24 Besmear, 26 Friend, 27 Weighty. **DOWN**: 1 Afflict, 2 Sleeping partner, 3 Obi, 4 Doggo, 5 Tracksuit, 6 Taboo, 7 Armed to the teeth, 8 In-tray, 12 Spree, 14 Amperand, 15 Adept, 16 Pawpaw, 18 Synergy, 20 Paste, 21 Elbow, 25 Ski.

DAILY MAIL New Cryptic Crosswords – pit your wits against 100 of the trickiest cryptic puzzles ever to appear in your favourite paper. This book provides the ideal way to warm up your grey matter for a day's work, or wind down and relax during those rare spare moments. Available from the Daily Mail Book Shop, call 0844 571 0640 or visit www.mailbookshop.co.uk. P&P free on orders over £15.

Yesterday's Zygolex, Sudoku and Kakuro solutions

6	8	9	9	8	6
9	6	7	8	7	5
9	6	7	8	7	5
7	3	6	9	8	6
1	2	8	7	1	8
8	7	9	6	2	3
3	1	6	4	7	4
9	5	2	1	3	7
6	8	9	7	8	9
8	9	7	8	9	7

MINI SUDOKU



COMPLETE the grid so that every row, each column and each 2x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 6. Solution tomorrow. Yesterday's Mini Sudoku solution

6	4	5	1	2	3
1	3	2	6	4	5
5	2	1	3	6	4
4	6	3	5	1	2
2	5	6	4	3	1
3	1	4	2	5	6

ACROSS

- 1 A new smell controlled by clean protein (8)
- 5 Consume part of Ulysses book that's withdrawn (6)
- 9 Subdue unit director in urban area (4,4)
- 10 Take in sailor and soldiers in small boat at first (6)
- 12 Swerve, very nearly running over European (4)
- 13 Major operation map exchanged for one in transit (10)
- 15 Dashing duke is aiming to bring in a piano (13)
- 19 Being exploitative, left new units in charge after work (13)
- 23 Prior's neat and decent out of order (10)
- 25 Fair perhaps misled, having no margins (4)
- 28 Someone taking stock to market, right inside port (6)
- 29 Naturally creative traits shaped in class primarily (8)
- 30 Makes good punches (6)
- 31 Quiet lady's excited about doctor singing in church (8)

DOWN

- 1 Voice writer's added after part of play (6)
- 2 Trace what's covered by printing error (5)
- 3 Newly-wed loses right to remain (4)
- 4 A little early moisture expected, say, to decrease (7)
- 6 Monk's music first to break box office record limits (5)
- 7 Is he always taking selfies for one Arab about to turn? (9)
- 8 Deliberately wreck second boat at sea in time (8)
- 11 Fascinated by odd parts of ignition (4)
- 14 Originally the supreme autocratic ruler? (4)
- 15 Swim harbour with minimal clothing, sort of ligature (9)
- 16 Harshly criticise god (3)
- 17 You may need crackers to open these crackers (4)
- 18 Officer with ruler perforated utensil (8)
- 20 Release gun dog out of bounds (4)
- 21 Bar part of County Down producing offal (7)
- 22 Forget lines involving key notice (6)
- 24 Comb top of mountain (5)
- 26 Charlotte's finally given up argument (3-2)
- 27 Either way, Bachelor of Laws retains one invoice (4)



Newspapers Support Recycling. The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2017 was 64.6 pc.

SUDOKU FILL in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. Solutions tomorrow.

		5	3	4		6		
6						3	1	
7								9
	1				5			
			7			8	4	
8	7			1	6			
1			5					
	2	3						7
				9	2	5		6

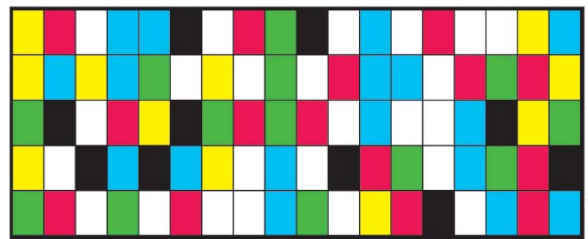
			9	6			4	
			4		7			
1	9					3		
7					6			9
	1							
	2						3	8
6			5	7	9			
3						8		
		5	6					7

Difficulty rating ★★☆☆☆

Difficulty rating ★★★★★

3	1	7	9	2
5	7	3	6	4
6	2	1	5	8
4	8	9	7	1
7	6	8	2	5
2	9	6	4	3
8	4	5	3	9
9	3	4	1	6
1	5	2	8	7

DOODLE-DO



BLACK in all the shapes containing the colour shown (left). Are you starting to see the shapes of some of the letters? Now black in another set of colours. The remaining pattern should spell out a five-letter word. To give you a clue, one of the letters is shown here: K _ _ _ _

SOLUTION ON NEXT PAGE

★☆☆☆☆

★☆☆☆☆

7	4	9	8
2	4	1	7
9	6	3	2
5	2	8	6
8	3	4	1
1	7	5	9
6	8	2	4
2	9	1	3
3	5	6	7

★☆☆☆☆

★☆☆☆☆

SCRABBLE BRAND G R A M S

The board on the right shows four rows of letters from a typical Scrabble game. Use each row to form a word of 2-7 letters and write it in the blank squares provided. Then add up the score for each row. Don't forget to use the double and triple word and letter scores — and add a 50-point bonus for every 7-letter word. Blank tiles can be used for any letter but have no score. See tomorrow's paper for the solution.

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A	F	S	F	Y	L	I
M	L	C	U	I	A	U
R	R	R	H	H	U	A
A	L	I	D	K	H	U

Triple Word Score

PAR SCORE 115-125 by JUDD

Double Word Score

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Double Word Score

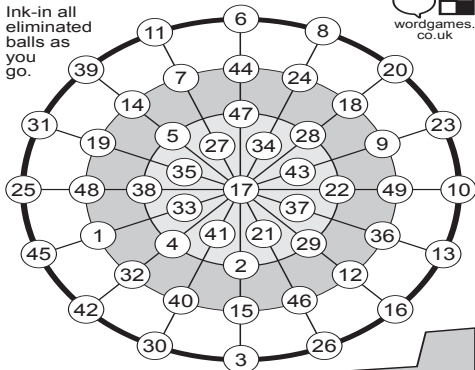
Yesterday's solution: BEDROOM 62 DULLARD 77 NINEPIN 65 EXAMINE 66 JUDD'S TOTAL: 270

Triple Word Score

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LOTTERY LOTTO

Eliminate 43 balls and WIN THE JACKPOT! Ink-in all eliminated balls as you go.



Your six jackpot balls must total 179

- ELIMINATIONS (Write numbers alongside)
- (30) and all even-numbered balls in the thirties
 - (12) and the ball with reverse these digits
 - (9) and single-digit balls lower in position
 - (28) and the ball 0.25 times this number
 - (39) and the thirty-ninth greatest ball of the 49
 - (47) and lesser odd-numbered balls in the forties
 - (26) and balls on its circle with a 2 or 6
 - (18) and the ball 1.5 times this number
 - (22) and the ball 150% of this number
 - (14) and all balls on its circle with one 4
 - (13) and two balls which total 13
 - (29) and two balls which total 29

Solution overleaf

CROSS NUMBER

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION				25
			8	13
5				29
		7		29
	3			13
13	24	15	32	24

Today's challenge time 11 mins 4 secs Your working time Min Secs

FILL each square with a number, 1 to 9. Horizontal squares should add up to totals on right. Vertical squares should add up to totals on bottom. Diagonal squares through centre should add up to totals in top and bottom right. Solution tomorrow. By Linus Maurer ©2015 King Features Inc.

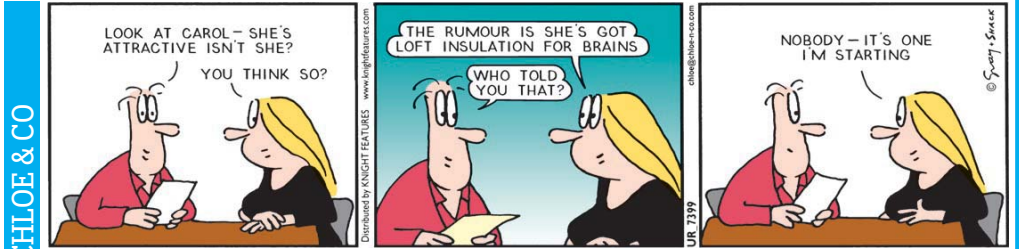
Yesterday's Sudoku X solution					Yesterday's Cross Number solution					31
4	1	5	2	3	6	1	7	1	9	18
6	3	2	5	1	4	6	5	7	9	27
1	2	6	4	5	3	5	7	6	9	27
5	4	3	1	6	2	8	6	6	4	24
3	5	4	6	2	1	20	25	20	31	16
2	6	1	3	4	5					



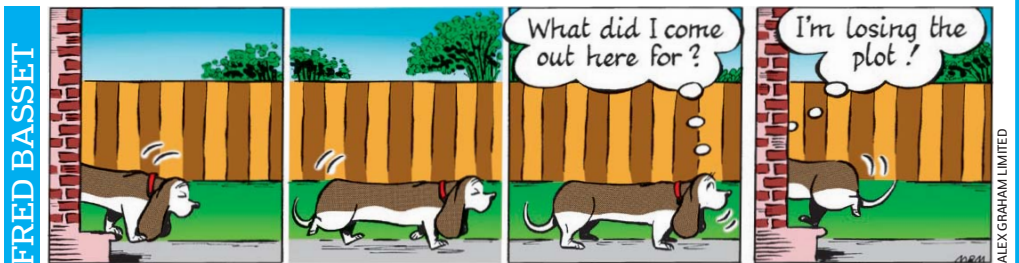
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GENERAL: Prize Sudoku and

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TO PLAY OUR LUCKY SQUARES GAME, SEE NEXT PAGE

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ARIES Mar 21 – Apr 20 WITH so much going on in your life, could you be pushing yourself dangerously close to the limit of your abilities? When you're sailing so close to the wind, will taking on 'just one more thing' be enough to make you fly out of control? The answer is a definitive 'no!' It's true you're wrestling with a problem that feels as if it might be too much to handle. But, in the build-up to the Astrological Blue Moon, it's easy to attribute more drama to a situation than it merits. What seems big now will soon look small. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5601.

TAURUS Apr 21 – May 21 CAROLE KING caught the spirit of intimacy and comradeship in her song You've Got A Friend. It's almost impossible to analyse the ingredients that make friendship work — and perfectly OK to accept that you feel good in the company of one person, but edgy if you spend too much time with another. If you feel in need of a companion who understands your current situation without you having to explain everything, the approaching Astrological Blue Moon brings the person you need. All you have to do is call. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5602.

GEMINI May 22 – June 22 THERE are few things more irritating than being told a truism after you have made a mistake: 'You didn't think that one through, did you?' or 'You're going to have to face the facts now.' As if you hadn't worked it out for yourself! Yet, right now, the reproachful voice isn't coming from anyone else's lips: it's you giving yourself a hard time. Yes, there are some facts to face. Your attempts at solving a problem might not have worked as well as you'd hoped. But you tried — and you learned. Don't give up. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5603.

CANCER June 23 – July 23 SOMETHING has got under your skin. And, although you have refrained from stamping your feet, your feelings are leaking out in little bursts of impatience and short-tempered responses to simple questions. You are, of course, feeling extra-sensitive during the approach to the Astrological Blue Moon. If you look

OSCAR CAINER

AS WE approach Good Friday, there's a worthy celestial event arising. The Libran Moon climbs above the horizon at the end of the week. It's the second Full Moon to arrive in Libra, thus making it an Astrological Full Blue Moon — a rare and powerful event.

It suggests that an important milestone can be achieved. The illumination it brings, plus the fulfilment it promises, will help us to realise ambitious goals for ourselves and in relationships, too. It's a potent portent for the holiday season that lies ahead.



again at what has happened, you can find a simple way to heal any hurt with gentle humour. Don't forget your light-hearted side. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5604.

LEO July 24 – Aug 23 'I DON'T wanna go to school, I just wanna break the rules.' This lyric from pop singer Charli XCX sums up the teenage desire for freedom. It also hints at the potential that these next few days hold for you, when you embrace the opportunities they present. The Astrological Blue Moon energises you and frees you from an emotional tie. The sense of liberation allows you to relax and take some time for yourself. The extra good news is that no one's feelings will be injured as you enjoy your independence. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5605.

VIRGO Aug 24 – Sep 23 IF YOU want something to be exactly right, that's fine — just remember it will take time and a supply of patience. You'll have to work hard if you want to reach such a high standard. Depending on what you're trying to achieve, exasperation might be a more likely outcome than contentment. Which doesn't mean you should abandon your attempts to put things right. But you don't need to become stressed striving for an impossible goal. Set aside your natural perfectionism: 'good enough' is good enough. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5606.

LIBRA Sep 24 – Oct 23 WHEN we are experiencing a moment of high emotion, it's hard to imagine being in any other state of mind. That goes for the good times and the bad. When we're feeling happy, for a short while it seems as if life will be like that for ever. And when we're sad? Well, that's the thing. Emotions know no future and no past; they eclipse logic and reason. If you're feeling like your current mood may never change, prepare for the Astrological Blue Moon. Get ready to be uplifted, inspired and excited. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5607.

SCORPIO Oct 24 – Nov 22 YOUR nerves are on edge. You keep experiencing situations that make little sense and leave you with a feeling of dislocation. Each time you try to get a grip on what's going on, the situation turns to sand in your hands. With other people offering cryptic responses, it's no wonder you've been concerned. But, even though you have real reasons to be anxious, these difficulties are passing. The build-up to the Astrological Blue Moon highlights what's wrong before it shows the way to make things right. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5608.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23 – Dec 21 'IT TAKES me and you.' Marvin Gaye's lyrics highlight our basic human needs, but there are many species, including types of starfish, bees, lizards, sharks and even turkeys, that don't need a partner to procreate. As for the rest

of us... it seems we need each other for something, at least! And that's not all we need other people for. Problem-solving is often better when two heads get together. You could survive today by yourself, but, for magic to happen, you need to co-operate. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5609.

CAPRICORN Dec 22 – Jan 20 THERE are plenty of accounts from people who have had near-death experiences. They describe travelling towards a bright light and feeling a deep sense of peace. Were they on their way to meet their maker, before they were brought back to the mortal plane? Some folk believe we contact the creator simply by allowing the extraordinary natural beauty of the world into our hearts. Rather than preparing for a difficulty, if you feel gratitude for what you have you'll be able to share joy today. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5610.

AQUARIUS Jan 21 – Feb 19 'THESE dreams go on when I close my eyes... Every moment I'm awake, the further I'm away.' Bernie Taupin's lyrics are a reminder that our dreams shed light on to our waking lives. Some psychologists say our nightly imaginings are the efforts of our subconscious, helping us to make sense of things. When you've lived through a challenging situation, a dream or a period of wakeful deep thought (or meditation) can hold the key to resolving any lingering issues. For answers now, trust your heart. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5611.

PISCES Feb 20 – Mar 20 WHERE there's a low, there is always a high. It's just that, sometimes, the peaks don't appear as swiftly as we'd like. If we navigate through life by optimism alone, we can find ourselves on the wildest of goose chases. That's why it's best to approach challenges with a sense of realism. That's not the same as pessimism. As long as you're sure that you want to stay involved in a project, you can harness the power of the Astrological Blue Moon. There's good reason to think that your positive outlook is justified. A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5612.

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HOW TO PLAY

1. FIND your Unique Number in the MyMail panel on the back page of today's paper. Your Unique Number is composed of six two-digit numbers between 01 and 90.
2. EACH square on today's Lucky Squares grid (far right) contains a two-digit number and some of them also contain coloured shapes. Circle the squares whose numbers match any of the two-digit numbers of your Unique Number.
3. TO WIN a prize, your matching squares need to contain all of one type of shape (for

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example, all three blue diamonds). See the Today's Prizes box for all denominations. If you circle all of one shape, you win the associated prize. You must call today to claim.

HOW TO CLAIM

1. If you match your Unique Number with an entire set of one shape, call 0345 071 2722 TODAY between 9.30am and 5pm.
2. Every claim must be verified by a complete, original winning newspaper — so retain your copy of the Mail.

LUCKY SQUARES DAILY GRID - WEDNESDAY APRIL 17									
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90

*TOTAL prize value per 13 weeks. Terms on previous page. Entrants must be UK residents aged 18+. Excludes NI. Claim line calls charged at local rates.

SOLUTIONS

30-SECOND CHALLENGE: Beginner: 8. Intermediate: 77. Advanced: 72.
QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS: 1 Jennie. 2 India. 3 Jeremy Irons. 4 Sixties. 5 Target.
MINDBENDER ANSWERS: 1142

people. 2 They are all types of tripe. 3 Lindsay Hoyte. 4 Hendon Way; the others are National Trails. 5 Juno, Venus, Vulcan (A becomes P, B becomes Q, etc).
MASTERQUIZ ANSWERS: 1 The Apartment. 2 Esquiline. 3 Bale des Anges. 4 Noel Gallagher. 5 Eyes. 6 Polish.

KUROSU:

XXOXOXO
OXOXOXO
OXOXOXO
XXOXOXO
OXOXOXO
OXOXOXO
OXOXOXO

DOODLE-DO:



The hidden word is KARMA

LOTTERY LOTTO: (15) (17) (31) (35) (37) (44)

LUCKY SQUARES ENDS ON FRIDAY

FROM MONDAY THERE'S £3K TO BE WON EACH WEEK WITH OUR NEW DAILY PUZZLES

